



## COURT HEARS PHUKET AIR TRAGEDY DETAILS

# Thai plane crash inquest finally opens

A TWO-DAY inquest has been taking place this week into the death of 22-year-old Alex Collins of Maesteg.

Alex, and his girlfriend Bethan Jones, from Porth in the Rhondda, were both killed in a plane crash in Thailand in September 2007.

The couple, who met as students at Cardiff University, had set off only four days earlier for a year-long round-the-world trip.

They had flown to Bangkok but decided to move onto Phuket and took a flight with One to Go airline, which was blacklisted in the EU over safety concerns.

The plane crashed in torrential rain as it landed at Phuket International Airport.

Ninety people were killed, although there were more than 30 survivors.

It is understood that Alex was killed instantly but Bethan

by JAYNE ISAAC

survived with severe burns and died 10 days later in hospital, with her parents at her side.

Alex's father, Richard Collins, flew out to Thailand with a friend to try and find his son, who was initially listed as missing.

Alex was later identified as being among the dead.

His body was returned home to Maesteg and he was laid to rest at Maesteg cemetery, following a service at Our Lady and St Patrick's RC

Church. His parents are Richard and Margaret Collins, who own the Travella clothes shop in Maesteg. He was an only child.

The inquest, which opened on Tuesday, is being held in Lincoln, along with those of other British victims of the crash.

A verdict was expected as the GEM was going to press.

Alex's family and friends have set up The Garnwen Trust in his memory, and it is raising thousands of pounds to build a log cabin at the Afan Argoed Country Park.



## KPC GETS A RECYCLING BONUS!

RECYCLING old cloth and material has helped a local young people's charity raise cash.

Claire Beighton, business development manager from Bag4Sport, presented a cheque to KPC Youth recently for £72.56, after they raised the funds

through textile recycling.

The Devizes-based social enterprise Bag4Sport has now supported more than 1,000 clubs and community groups from all over Britain by fundraising for them.

The idea is simple: Bag4Sport raises funds by buying unwanted clothing and soft toys, which are then re-used by tex-

tile recyclers to provide affordable clothing to countries in Eastern Europe and Africa.

Any left-over funds after are then ploughed back into sponsorships for clubs, which include help with tournament days, new kits or trophies.

## HOMES WILL BE BUILT WHERE NANTYMOEL'S GILEAD CHAPEL STOOD

PLANS to build a pair of semi-detached houses on the site of an old chapel in Nantymoel have been approved by Bridgend planners, despite opposition from neighbours.

Mr S James has been given consent to build the houses on the site of the Gilead Chapel at Dinam Street.

The houses will be two-storey at the front and three-storey at the rear. Balconies will be created at the back of the houses. The properties include integral garages.

They have been designed with the conservation area in mind and will cover as closely as possible the original footprint of the chapel that was previously on the site.

Slate or slate-like roofs will be installed, along with four panel exterior doors with a paint-like finish.

The garage doors will have a vertical plank appearance. The windows will have the look

of traditional sliding sash windows and will be white.

The council's conservation and design officer stated that the scheme is compatible with the preservation of the character of the Nantymoel Conservation Area.

The design makes

"adequate reference" to local vernacular design

to ensure that the development does not jar against its context.

Residents living near the site have objected because the frontage of the two properties would take up four on-street car parking spaces which will be lost to local residents.

Residents have urged highway officers to visit the street either after 5pm or at weekends, when people are not in work, to judge the parking situation for themselves.

With regard to the objections on the loss of parking, which is the main reason for objection, planners state: "The highways department has not objected to the proposed development on the basis that the submitted scheme provides a reduced level of parking to serve the proposed development which is in a sustainable location.

They say that they have no objections to the two houses - which they would prefer to the derelict site which now exists since permission was given to demolish

## POLICE HUNT MAN AFTER KENFIG HILL INCIDENT

POLICE are investigating an incident at around 5.50pm on Sunday, March 20, when a man approached a 13-year-old girl on the bike-path between

Y Hendre, Kenfig Hill, and pulled at her clothing, before making off in the direction of New Road cottages.

He was described as tall, of slim build, wearing a black

hooded top, black trousers and black workman-style boots.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Bridgend CID on 01656 679518, or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

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## TESCO IS A DONE DEAL

THE agreement between Bridgend County Borough Council and landowners in Porthcawl has been signed and sealed, meaning that work can start on the building of a Tesco supermarket.

(See page 3 for a full report).

**Don't forget - the clocks go forward on Sunday! See page 16 for our special feature.**

JAYNE ISAAC

## THE COLUMN YOU WRITE

## Readers' Letters

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. Letters and emails MUST include full address and a contact telephone number. An email address alone is not sufficient. We will (in certain circumstances), protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.

## 'Close tax loopholes that benefit casino capitalism'

**T**o an extent, I agree with Alun Cairns' GEM article last week that following on from Labour's disastrous handling of the economy, cuts have to be made.

That said, I would certainly question the speed and depth of cuts, not to mention the disproportionate amount of cuts to Welsh capital funding and the savage blow to frontline services.

What the article does illustrate, however, is that other than the colour of their ties that they wear, the only difference between Labour and Conservative politi-

cians is the speed of the cuts that they would propose.

It would appear that apart from the ideas from Plaid Cymru, the remaining choice is a sad reflection before the people of Bridgend and Porthcawl in May's Welsh general election.

It was interesting that Mr. Cairns raised the subject of the Private Finance Initiative, a system which is, de facto, heads private sector wins-tails the taxpayer loses.

Plaid Cymru have always raised caution to PFI, a system that will saddle debt on to the next generation, although the current financial crises have speeded up the process.

## Local MP drops in with a cheque!



Madeleine Moon and Geoff Hill.

**BRIDGEND** MP Café in Bridgend.

**Madeleine Moon** visited the new Alzheimer's Society Café at Nolton Church Hall, Bridgend on March 17, having been unable to attend its launch last month.

She commented: "I surprised Geoff Hill from the Alzheimer's Society, with a cheque for £75, money I have earned from completing opinion poll surveys, a donation to help with their new

## Accountability and value for money!

**T**HE Taxpayers' Alliance has revealed that 118 council employees are earning more than £100,000 a year in Welsh coun-

cils. Bridgend came joint second in the league table, along with Torfaen and RCT with seven employees pocketing £100,000 or more.

With local authority budgets under growing pressure and frontline services facing cuts, it is essential for senior staff to set a good example and exercise pay restraint them-

selves.

These figures show that we desperately need an army of 'armchair auditors' to scrutinise BCBC's accounts to ensure value for money. Trust in politics is at an all time low.

By making local authorities more transparent and accountable, we can start to fix this.

Greater openness and accountability will improve value for money and stop taxpayers' money being wasted.

Alex Williams (Welsh Conservative candidate, Bridgend)

## Porthcawl's regeneration: council updates

**REGENERATION** officer Andrew Parry Jones is to be invited to attend meetings of Porthcawl Town Council every eight weeks, to update them on matters relating to Porthcawl regeneration.

This suggestion was made at a meeting of the town council by Coun Graham Walter and was accepted.

Mr Walter said that these meetings would plug the gaps between the Regeneration Forum meetings.

Mr Parry Jones will be asked to provide a verbal

update on what's happening with the plans.

In the meantime, BCBC has confirmed that the next meeting of the Porthcawl Regeneration Forum will not be open to the public. It can only be attended by representatives of those organisations which sit on the forum, including the town council.

Attempts were made at its last meeting to 'gatecrash' when three members of the public – including Mr. Walter, who was not a councillor at the time, and Coun Sean Aspey who was – turned up. They were asked to leave after forum members voted to exclude them.

## ARE YOU IN THE PICTURE?



'One hundred ice cream cornets, please.'

THIS photograph was taken outside Langford's Ice Cream Shop in Kenfig Hill. Are you in the picture? Do you know when it was taken and what the occasion was? If you can answer any of the above questions, or have further information, please telephone Keith E Morgan on 01656 788150.

## Bunting bid to flag up Fairtrade



June Windsor one of the organisers showing Janice Gregory AM the products on offer.

A PIECE of bunting, made from Fairtrade cotton and designed by Ogmore AM Janice Gregory will feature in an attempt to break the world record for the longest continual piece of bunting.

It will be added to others from across the UK to raise awareness of how Fairtrade cotton protects the livelihoods of farmers.

The AM said: "Fairtrade is transforming the lives of millions of farming families in developing countries. I am delighted to be a part of this event. I'd like to congratulate Fairtrade Wales on their success over the last few years and salute the passionate commitment of Fairtrade supporters and stockists."

She joined a 'Big Brew' coffee morning, in

## Help for Heroes sponsored ride

**ABERYSTWYTH** and District Motorcycle Action Group is organising a Help for Heroes sponsored run on April 29 in the Vale.

Riders will be visiting 'Thankful Villages' in Wales where those who went away to fight in the Great War all returned home alive.

We will be stopping at Colwinston for a short break before moving on to the home stretch back to Aberystwyth. We will be recording the event for inclusion in the 'People's Collection' website and would like to contact a relative of a soldier from each village and give the community the title and honour of being a 'Thankful Village'.

Medwyn Parry, (Chairman, Aberystwyth and District MAG)

## Rotarians offer a health check at Trinity Church

SATURDAY, April 9

is Stroke Awareness Day and the Rotary Club of Porthcawl, in conjunction with the Stroke Association, will be encouraging residents and visitors to pop into Trinity Church, John Street, Porthcawl, between 10am and 4pm to have their blood pressure measured.

Nurses and doctors will be on hand to measure blood pressure, and if it is raised, people will be advised to visit their doctor for a follow up test and treatment.

A Rotary spokesman said: "This short, simple, free test only takes a few minutes, but could help to save lives.

"High blood pressure is a key risk factor for stroke which can strike at any age; it is the third most common cause of death in the UK, and the single most common cause of severe disability.

"Other factors, such as smoking, being overweight, eating too much salt, drinking too much alcohol, not taking regular exercise, heredity and being male are also linked to high blood pressure."

As there are often no symptoms of raised blood pressure, Porthcawl Rotarians are hoping many people will take the opportunity of getting this free health check.

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www.bridgend-today.co.uk

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## HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL MARCH 31)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20–25 minutes later.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
24 Thur	09.24	9.7	21.39	9.4
25 Fri	10.08	8.9	22.27	8.4
26 Sat	10.52	8.1	23.23	8.0
27 Sun			13.01	7.5
28 Mon	01.56	7.6	14.41	7.3
29 Tues	03.29	7.5	16.05	7.4
30 Wed	04.35	7.9	17.07	8.0
31 Thur	05.27	8.5	17.51	8.7

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

# Porthcawl regeneration: SIGNING CLEARS THE WAY FOR PHASE ONE (TESCO)

THE agreement which decides how profits are to be shared from the Porthcawl regeneration scheme has been signed.

Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) and the Evans Families have signed the Owners' Agreement, which will be the basis for Porthcawl Regeneration. **JAYNE ISAAC** reports.

Signing this agreement clears the way for the council to finalise the deal with Chelverton Deeley Freed, who are developing the new supermarket for Tesco as part of phase one of the regeneration.

The deal, which was revealed by The GEM, gives the Evans Families 40 per cent of the overall profits – set at 2006 land values.

But for the supermarket development, the council has agreed to give the private owners 72 per cent of the profits, amounting to £4.7m of the £6.5m profit, leaving council taxpayers with £1.8m.

The council argues that it can use this £1.8million to attract match funding for the harbour development and also argues that by the time later phases are complete, the profit ratio will have corrected itself to the 60-40 split.

The Evans' will get a further £300,000 from the remainder of Phase One and then £10m from Phase Two, giving them a total take of £15m.

These are guaranteed figures, regardless of what property values are doing, rather than a percentage of the selling price of the land involved.

Outside valuers, brought in by the council after concerns about the deal were raised by a number of Porthcawl organisations, warned in a second secret report, also seen by The GEM, that the danger to the council was that land values may not get back up to their 2006 levels for many years.

This could leave the council with the choice of selling sooner and taking the hit in profits from their share of the money, or waiting.

But valuers have warned that it could be 20 years or more before land values recover. The agreement is for 20 years and in theory, could end before Phase Two which includes the funfair and Sandy Bay developments, is commenced.

The Evans Families could then seek to sell to private developers and would no longer be tied in to a deal with the council.

## Lions migrate to a new base!

AFTER many years, Porthcawl Lions Club have moved to a new venue; their base at the Seabank Hotel is no longer available and they have now moved to the Hi Tide in Mackworth Road.

The Porthcawl Lions were sad to leave the Seabank, which has so many fond memories for members, but they still retain a link, with the charity book sales continuing at the hotel.

Members of the public and other town organisations are welcome to assist and anyone intending to take part should telephone 01656 772598.

David Richards  
(Porthcawl Lions)

The signing of the agreement leaves a number of things up in the air. The Civic Society agreed to call for a referendum on Porthcawl Regeneration just a few weeks ago.

They have to stage a public meeting at which 10 people must ask for a referendum, which BCBC is then obliged to organise.

It is unclear now if they will proceed with that. The town council is also to stage a public meeting which will now probably concentrate on how the supermarket scheme is to take place.

A spokesman for BCBC stated: "The owners' agreement has been legally completed and we will soon be seeking to make an important announcement about consultation over the developer's plans for phase one of the Porthcawl regeneration."

## New uniforms bring nurses out in an itchy rash

**NEW uniforms for nurses throughout Wales have caused some of them to come out in itchy rashes.**

The new scrubs-type uniforms were launched within the Abertawe Bro Morgannwg Trust on St David's Day, but staff at the Princess of Wales Hospital have contacted The GEM to say that many of them have come out in a rash.

Staff have been told to wash the uniforms three times at 60 degrees before wearing them, and if there's a problem to wash them again three times. If they still get a reaction, new uniforms will have to be ordered in a different material.

The new all-Wales uniform was introduced to end the confusion between hospitals having different types of uniforms. All staff of each grade in Wales will now wear the same uniform, so that patients can immediately know who are staff nurses, sisters and other grades.

Although representatives of the Royal College of Nurses were involved in the design of

the uniform, some staff have complained that there is no front fastening, which means that soiled uniforms have to be taken off over the head instead of being unbuttoned or unzipped.

A spokesman for ABM Board said that they were aware that there had been some problems, but

Occupational Health has given clear instructions to nurses about how to deal with the reactions and the situation is being monitored.

A spokesman for the Welsh Assembly Government said that the roll out of new uniforms across Wales has been completed.

He went on: "The number of staff who have experienced a reaction to the new uniforms was very small in comparison to the number of uniforms issued."

"However, more testing was undertaken on the uniforms to resolve the problems. Staff have been provided with clear guidance when they received their uniforms which include washing instructions to reduce the risk of a reaction."

**JAYNE ISAAC**

## Embankment plans opposed

**BRIDGEND town council has objected to a new planning application to build on the old railway embankment that separates old and new Brackla.**

Paddle Homes have again submitted an application, this time to build 75 dwellings on the land, which is described as being off Waunscil Avenue.

The old railway line runs behind Waunscil Avenue and runs across the tops of Charles Street, Vernon Street and Morfa Street. New houses in Brackla have been

built on the other side.

The town council

objected on the grounds of restricted highway access and also because three-storey properties would be an intrusion to existing residents.

They also argue that the embankment, which has naturally vegetated itself over the years, is an important green wedge between the two areas of the town.

Some previous applications have been turned down by BCBC, but one application was granted some time ago.

*The final decision will be taken by BCBC planners.*

## Gift of new trailer will help club to clean up the beach at Ogmore



**THE 'Tidy Towns' project by Keep Wales Tidy has come to the rescue of Pen-y-Bont Surf Life Saving Club – by buying them a brand new trailer.**

A Keep Wales Tidy spokesman said: "As well as saving lives, the members of Pen-y-Bont SLSC are deeply committed to the environment at Ogmore beach."

"Unfortunately, the area is seriously blighted by refuse which comes in on the tide, or is dumped by thoughtless visitors to the local beauty spot."

"While efforts have been made to keep the river mouth and beaches clean by Scope and

other volunteer organisations, much of the area is isolated and hard to reach, and taking the rubbish away has always presented a problem."

Now Pen-y-Bont SLSC will be able to cart the offending refuse away in their brand new trailer, and isolated areas, such as the beach at Merthyr Mawr Warren, can now be cleared of the rubbish which has been building up on the tide line for years.

David Melding, AM for South Wales Central, presented the cheque to the club and commented: "It's great to see this partnership working between Keep Wales Tidy and these committed members of the

community. This is what the Tidy Towns Project is all about."

Peter Lake MBE, president of Surf Life Saving Association Wales, commented: "Our youngsters will take part in the clean-ups we have planned as part of their environmental awareness training. We want young people to learn to take care of their world."

Anyone wishing to help Pen-y-Bont SLSC clean up the Merthyr Mawr Warren, or take part in any environmental improvement project in the area, should contact Ian Harvey at Keep Wales Tidy on 029 2072 6985.

## LOCAL SCHOOL GETS A GREEN ACCOLADE



**YSGOL Y FERCH o'r Sger was recently awarded its second Green Flag Eco-School status.**

The award came after organising an eco day that involved every class taking part in a number of activities such as willow workshops and Fairtrade activities. The children also had the opportunity to listen to an assembly presented by a teacher from Zimbabwe, on life in developing African countries.

Mrs Rhiannon Dixon, headteacher of Ysgol Y Ferch o'r Sger, said: "I am delighted that we have achieved our second Green Flag and I would like to say a big thank you to Miss Garfield, our eco-school coordinator and the eco committee for all their hard work. Da iawn wr."

"Our aim for the school was to recycle more and become more energy efficient, which was achieved by introducing new stop taps in the washrooms and class light monitors. These schemes are a fantastic opportunity for

the children. They learn all about environmental issues, how the smallest changes can make a difference and how these issues affect other countries."

The school received its first Green Flag in December 2008 as a result of environmental

links with European schools and the development of a nature area and vegetable garden. This led to establishing a gardening club and recycling scheme.

The school also achieved the target of becoming a Fairtrade school in October 2009.

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# New hostel for the homeless approved in Bridgend town

PLANS to build a third hostel on land at Coity Road, Bridgend, have been approved by planners.

Hendre Housing Association has been given permission to build the 16-bed hostel for the

homeless on land now occupied by HHPG House, which is an office block due to be demolished.

The hostel will provide supported interim accommodation. It will be a three-storey building and will provide 16 en-suite bedrooms, plus a

communal lounge, dining area, kitchen, laundry, training room, interview room and staff offices.

Access will be the same as at present, directly from Coity Road. The scheme has the support of the Housing and Community Regeneration department and is a high priority within the authority's social housing grant programme, in partnership with the Welsh Assembly Government.

The proposal is a working partnership between Hafod Care Housing Association and with their development arm, Hendre.

This will be the third hostel type facility on Coity Road and problems of anti-social behaviour have occurred at the adjoining facility, which has no on-site supervision at night.

Commenting on residents' fears, planners state that the adjoining site accommodates five self-contained flats for the homeless and a further six flats, while community facilities were built lower down Coity Road.

These facilities have to be located close to town centres with easy access to public transport and local amenities.

The report said that sites became available on Coity Road and each application accorded with development plan policies. The council is obliged to assess each planning application on its merits.

While anti-social behaviour has been deemed to be a valid reason for refusing an application, the applicants in this case have confirmed that the new hostel will have 24-hour staffing with a ground floor bedsit provided for staff to sleep over.

Boys and girls from age 13 who consider joining should not anticipate this level of fun and stupidity on a nightly basis but are welcome to come along (with a parent) to the Squadron headquarters at Joslin Terrace, at 7.30pm on any Tuesday or Friday evening, to view a 'normal' night.

A management plan will be agreed to ensure that the necessary care and support are provided to the users of the unit.

The report went on: "It is expected that such a plan should ensure that problems of anti-social behaviour are minimised in and around the unit."

Hendre has also written to residents explaining the proposal and assuring them that it will not be used by people who have a problem with substance misuse and would also not provide emergency accommodation.

Objections were received from a number of residents of the Coity Road area concerned about further problems with anti-social behaviour and drug and alcohol abuse.

They claim that drugs paraphernalia has been found in the area since the drug rehab unit was opened.

Planning officers said that the development should be approved because it complies with council and government policies and does not adversely affect privacy or visual amenities or affect neighbours' amenities sufficiently to warrant refusal.



ABOVE: Steven Davies with his wife Ruth and daughters Olivia and Kate.

## Mother's pride as son helps disaster victims

A LOCAL woman, Mrs Lynne Davies was a proud but worried mother until last Saturday, because her son was in Japan as a member of a Fire Service rescue team.

Her son Steven is a station manager in Port Talbot; but has also volunteered to join the Great Britain overseas disaster rescue team.

As a member of the rescue team he is on a rota of one week duty, and can be called to a disaster anywhere in the

world. Earlier this month, he took off from Manchester to fly to Japan, landing in the American air base in Misawa, 60 miles from the disaster area.

The UK sent 10 teams, each consisting of six trained rescue staff.

Steven's rescue team from west Wales were then flown by the Americans in a helicopter to Ofunato, a town of 70,000 inhabitants, which is 80 miles from the damaged nuclear power station.

Lynne told The GEM: "Because of the difficulty in communications, one

member of the team sends an e-mail via satellite to Hampshire fire brigade, and they relay messages back to other brigades."

However, Lynne could breathe easy again last Saturday, when Steven arrived back in the UK.

Teams were withdrawn when a Swiss team, operating nearer to the stricken nuclear reactor than Steven's team, reported rising radiation levels.

When Steven was young, his family lived in St Bride's Road, Aberkenfig, and Steven went to school at Pandy

CLIVE MITCHELL

## March muffins and flapjacks

LALESTON WI

At the March meeting, members enjoyed a treat of muffins and flapjacks with their tea.

The guest speaker Kath Mepham, who is a tutor at the WI Denman College, had prepared the goodies in advance and explained to the meeting how they were made. It made a change from the usual biscuits!

The president said how much the 'Holiday on Ice' show had been enjoyed and she reported

## Join Bridgend Lions' annual 'Swimmafun'

AN annual swim gala (the Swimmafun) is a major feature of Bridgend Lions Club's annual activities and is held in partnership with the borough's community groups looking for an easy, attractive way to raise funds for their own projects.

It's been running for more than 30 years and we are rather proud that it has produced more than £120,000 for the benefit of many such groups and local charities.

Today's financial climate makes it necessary for small groups to consider every possible way to maintain their income and the Lions' Swimmafun is a perfect way to help. By getting their teams sponsored, local PTAs, Scouts, Guides, sporting and community

groups can use the gala to provide additional income, to raise funds for a special project or perhaps just to help towards ongoing expenses.

Other participating groups have included local charities or those who are supporting their employer's nominated cause.

The Swimmafun is a wonderfully satisfying way to create a great team spirit in a very healthy activity, and it is returning this year to the new Ynysawdre Pool, Tondu, on Sunday, May 8, and we invite entries from all interested groups.

Contact the Lions swim organiser, David Jones, on 07816 911249 for more details and we will send an information pack, or check out our web site www.bridgendlions.org.uk which has downloadable details.

David Jones

## Chaos as the Cadets help Comic Relief



Rhys Francis as 'the CO' and Cadet Ieuan Potts, impersonating Flight Sergeant Catherine John.

ON Red Nose Day, a 'rank-swap' saw a temporary new CO and Senior-Cadet for the night at the headquarters of 1092 Bridgend Squadron ATC at Coity.

All ranks were 'up for grabs' and visiting Wing Staff Officer, Squadron Leader Protheroe's rank-slides were 'sold for a tenner' to recruit-cadet Thomas Daniel (13), who addressed the 'final parade', along with temporary Flight Lieutenant Rhys Francis (15) and temporary Flt Sgt Ieuan Potts (16).

The squadron raised £250 for charity, on an unusual evening of mayhem and indiscipline.

Temporary Corporal-for-the-night, Dave Biddles, understands that the cadets' charity committee has decided to donate the cash raised, to the Princess of Wales Hospital Prostate cancer appeal.

Boys and girls from age 13 who consider joining should not anticipate this level of fun and stupidity on a nightly basis but are welcome to come along (with a parent) to the Squadron headquarters at Joslin Terrace, at 7.30pm on any Tuesday or Friday evening, to view a 'normal' night.

The unit will not be a 'walk-up' facility for the homeless and will be tenanted with people nominated by the council.

## Who wants to build what and where in the county borough

Mr D Tickner - Rear 1 Locks Court, Porthcawl - Lop yew trees to height of approx four metres.  
Mr H S Thomas - 159 West Road, Porthcawl - Crown lifting and reduction to various sycamore trees.  
Mr John Evans - 11 Park Street, Bridgend - Fasnia signs.  
Greggs of the Midlands - Unit 11, Gentle Way, Broadlands - Internally illuminated badge sign box and projecting sign to rear of property.  
Citroen UK Limited - Bassets Citroen, South Road, Bridgend Industrial Estate - Various signs.  
Parkcare Homes (No. 2) Limited - Grove House, Heol-y-Cyw, Bridgend -

Change of use of existing dwelling to care home (use class C2).  
Mr D Froley - 22 Bredbury Gardens, Porthcawl - Rear dormer extension.  
Welsh Ambulance Service (NHS) Trust - 4 Millers Avenue, Brynmwyn Industrial Estate, Bridgend - Change of use from tile and bathroom business to ambulance station.  
Brynhfyryd Camping - Brynhfyryd Ffordd y Gyfraith, Cefn Cribwr - C/u camping caravanning site to camp site for pitches for 12 caravans/motor homes inc seasonal caravans/tents.  
Parkdean Holidays -

Trecco Bay Holiday Park, Porthcawl - Strengthening of existing coastal protection and improvements to beach access including new access ramp.  
Mr B Thomas - 7 Heol Brynnewis, Sarn - Two storey extension to existing building, re-sub of refusal P/10/784/FUL.  
A Bassett and Company Limited - Jackson Cars Ltd, South Road, Bridgend Industrial Estate - External over-cladding and showroom extension.  
Mr G Lee - 4 White Hart Cottages, Llan Road, Llangynwyd - Rear extension for larger kitchen/utility with bedroom above, ground floor WC and retaining wall to rear.  
Mr and Mrs R Henderson - 9 Woodlands Rise,

space and retaining wall to rear.  
Mr J Lyons and Miss L James - 7 Heol Tre Dwr, Waterton - Single storey extension to living room and porch.  
Ms M Hodges - 6 White Hart Cottages, Llan Road, Llangynwyd - Rear extension or larger kitchen/utility with bedroom above, new WC and retaining wall to rear.  
Mr and Mrs C and R James - 5 White Hart Cottages, Llan Road, Llangynwyd - Rear extension for kitchen/utility with bedroom above, ground floor WC and retaining wall to rear.  
Mr G Mackenzie - 37 Riverside, Aberkenfig - Single storey front extension.

Bryntirion - Demolish substandard kitchen and erect new single storey rear extension.  
Mr Kim Walker - 23-27 High Street, Ogmore Vale - Extend commencement of P/05/1686/FUL for further five years, nine self contained starter home flats.  
Mr M Morgan - 2 Castle Meadows, Coity - Single storey extension.  
Hafod Housing Association - 1 Springfield Close, Bridgend - Two storey extension with associated internal and external alterations including drainage works.  
Mr G Mackenzie - 37 Riverside, Aberkenfig - Single storey front extension.

Mr M Joyce - Cae Plas, Bankers Hill, Cefn Cribwr - Single storey rear extension.  
Mr Robert Thomas - 11 Heol y Bardd, Bridgend - Single storey rear extension.  
Mr Frank Hope - 12 Heol Fawr, North Cornelly - Single storey rear extension.  
Miss H D Thomas - 36 Rockfields, Porthcawl - Extension to existing dormer.  
Mrs Marion Price - 18 Lewis Avenue, Bridgend - Proposed bedroom and en-suite extension.  
Mrs Gladys Cooper - 27 Louther Place, North Cornelly - Shower room extension to rear with

access ramp and handrail.  
Mr Alan Davies - 56 Salisbury Road, Maesteg - Ground floor single extension for new entrance lobby, WC and utility room.  
Mr D Gully - Cwrt y Folan, Penyfai - Application to retain 1.4 metre fence.  
Mr I Morgan - 8 Bryntirion Hill, Bridgend - Two storey side extension and ground floor lean-to at rear.  
Aaron Photography - 59 Commercial Street, Kenfig Hill - Proposed shop front improvements and new ramped access.

Porthcawl plans get the go-ahead as neighbours' objections are over-ruled

# 'CUBIST' HOUSE WILL BE 'A BEACON' AMONG 'UNDISTINGUISHED HOUSES'

PLANS to build a cube-shaped house in Porthcawl have been given planning consent, despite objections from neighbours.

Bridgend's development control committee has granted permission to Mr TG Williams to build a new dwelling as a replacement for an existing property at 30, Beach Road, Newton.

The new house, which will have an art deco design, will include a lift up to its flat roof and two swimming pools.

The new house would be four-bedroom and three-storey with a flat roof at about 30 feet high. The lift shaft would extend for a further eight feet above the flat roof.

The ground floor would house the swimming pool, utility room, technical room, bathroom and storage area.

The first floor would include three bedrooms, living space, a library area and a small balcony.

The second floor would contain the master bedroom and bathroom with a kitchen-dining area and extra living space. At this level, a large wooden deck area with a glazed balustrade would be provided on the southern side.

A staircase would link the main floors and the lift would also link floors and give access to the roof.

The building will be made of reinforced concrete clad with insulation and self-coloured render. At second floor level, part of the northern and eastern bedroom wings would be curved and clad with copper.

Timber has been avoided because of high maintenance in a coastal location, so external doors and windows will be powder coated aluminium. Contrast will be provided by the use of inert composite wood on the balconies and the clad sections of the southern side.

The flat roof will be finished in dark grey waterproof membrane.

A four-car garage will be built on the southern side with a sun deck above. It will be screened by a hedge planted on top of the garage. Steps down would lead to a small outdoor swimming pool.

The council's conservation and design officer offered strong support for the design.

He said: "It is rare to receive a proposal for an imaginative design for a modern dwelling on a site where such design is fully justified, and where the proposed dwelling would enhance the interest and character of an area.

"This is such a proposal and the application is strongly supported. It is believed that the building will be a beacon for good design and will transform, with a landmark building that had both character and quality, a group of undistinguished 20th century houses that lead from the historic core of Newton to

REPORT by JAYNE ISAAC

the beach."

The report says that the design statement produced correctly identified the site as having "a special relationship to the sea and the sand dunes" and being one "where an incident or landmark building is justifiable."

The Environment Agency, which has opposed other applications in the New Road area of Porthcawl on the grounds that they lie on a flood plain, states that this site is considered at risk of tidal flooding.

However, the new house will replace a bungalow which has ground floor bedrooms and has no flood resilient design.

On the basis that there are no ground floor bedrooms, the design is flood resilient and an evacuation plan has been identified, the agency offers no objection.

Objections were lodged by Porthcawl Civic Trust on the grounds that the application was out of accord with policies which must be followed when considering development within the Heritage Coast area.

Caroline Vaughan, secretary of the society, described the design as "aggressively obtrusive in its stark, cuboid shape made even more invasive of the protected dunes by its height."

The society says that the new building would be a "brash concrete and glass structure" of a "blatantly overbearing design."

Architects Gillard Associates state that the design approach is appropriate to the seaside location, interpreting the 1930s modernism of the pavilion at Bexhill on Sea, a style which has become synonymous in the UK with coastal architecture.

However, Mrs Vaughan, on behalf of the society, stated that Bexhill on Sea is not on a Heritage Coast and 1930s modernism is not appropriate in such a location.

She said that suggesting that a landmark building would be acceptable within the Heritage Coast was "bizarre" when developments need to harmonise with one of the finest stretches of undeveloped coast in England or Wales.

She added: "The society is deeply concerned with the increasing usage of the term 'landmark building' as a means of circumnavigating planning regulations."

The society does not object to a replacement building but feels that the new structure should blend into the environment rather than "make a statement of its own importance."

Residents of eight neighbouring properties also

objected. They argued that the proposed development was totally out of character with the area and with other properties on Beach Road which were of traditional design. They say it will overshadow the unspoilt dunes on the Heritage Coast.

In his appraisal, planning officer David Llewelyn said that despite what the civic trust has said, this site does not lie within the Glamorgan Heritage Coast, but was located immediately adjacent to it. It lies within the coastal zone boundary.

The existing dwelling is a dormer bungalow which has no architectural value. The new property would be a replacement dwelling which was acceptable in principle.

Mr Llewelyn said that despite criticisms of the design, it had silhouette, articulation, rhythm and colour.

The design reflected the requirement of the client

and also of the site context – with garages that "morph" into a sun deck and swimming pool.

He went on: "The resulting building is innovative and imaginative and has a strong and memorable character."

"That character has been inspired by 1930s modernism and can be seen as appropriate to the coastal setting, because 1930s modernism itself was influenced by maritime themes."

He said that suggesting that the new development should blend into the environment was to misunderstand the value to any built environment of incident and landmark buildings in the right location.

Local member Ken Watts asked for a full site meeting and this was held before members took their decision.

Planning consent was granted subject to a series of conditions.

**Mae'n dod yn haws  
adnabod hylendid bwyd da**  
**Good food hygiene is  
getting easier to spot**

**SGÔR HYLENDID BWYD  
FOOD HYGIENE RATING**

0 1 2 3 4 5

DA IAWN  
VERY GOOD

Mae'r Cynllun Sgorio Hylendid Bwyd ar y gorwel. Mae'n sgorio'r manau lle byddwch chi'n bwyta neu'n prynu bwyd, a hynny ar sail safonau hylendid. Mae sgôr o ddil ym golygu bod angen gwella ar frys, a sgôr o bwpn yn dda iawn. **Coffwch chwilio am y sticer neu cymerwch gip ar y sgoriau ar-lein drwy food.gov.uk/ratings – cliciwch ar 'Cymraeg'.**

The Food Hygiene Rating Scheme is coming. It rates the places you eat or buy food on hygiene standards. Zero means urgent improvement necessary, five means very good. Look out for the sticker or check the ratings online at food.gov.uk/ratings



Asiantaeth  
Safonau  
Bwyd  
food.gov.uk  
Food  
Standards  
Agency

Cynllun y cynllun mewn partneriaeth a chwaraedol i ddil ym ddiwrthwymddysgu a phrifysgol. This scheme is run in partnership with your local authority.

PENCOED TOWN AND DISTRICT TWINNING ASSOCIATION

## Plans in hand for twinning activities after great trip



LEFT:  
The  
'twins'  
enjoy  
bonhomie  
and  
excellent  
cuisine.

TWINNING in Pencoed is very much alive after a successful visit to Plouzane, Brittany, in September.

The welcome by our twin town was very warm as usual and everyone present had a marvellous time.

The trip included a visit to the historical area of Brest, which was followed by an open air lunch at Fort du Leec. We were treated to an evening's entertainment by 'Les Mariniers' and served with excellent cuisine. Finally en-route to the ferry, we visited the Isle de Batz.

This year, 2011 is looking like a busy year for the twinning association.

A visit to Waldsassen, Germany, has been arranged for

June 9-14 with approximately 20 members travelling.

At the end of June, about 20 people from Plouzane, including a small choir, are expected in Pencoed. Arrangements for this visit are well in hand, with a programme of entertainment already being booked.

Hopefully, we will be able to accommodate all our visitors with host families in the Pencoed area. If you would like to host and enjoy some splendid entertainment, contact one of the officers below.

Continuing support from Pencoed Town Council is much appreciated.

Pencoed Comprehensive School has had a link with the Hauptschule, Waldsassen, for about 20 years. In March, the school welcomed a student

teacher from Waldsassen for about three weeks. In July 2010, the school hosted a visit from Waldsassen pupils and hope to visit Germany in July 2011.

Most months, the association organises social meetings which are an ideal way to meet the people involved and find out more about twinning. The next two meetings are – Wednesday, April 13, Easter Supper with some interesting competitions; and Wednesday, May 25, a light hearted German quiz. They all start at 7.30pm at Pencoed Welfare Hall.

Anyone who would like to find out more about the twinning association should contact Linda Lynham on 01656 863639 or Wendy McDonald on 01656 865633.

MARK STEER

# YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS IN YOUR AREA

## Golden wedding

Congratulations to Christine and Denis Portsmouth from East Avenue, Kenfig Hill, who will be celebrating 50 years of marriage tomorrow.

Christine, originally from Boston in Lincolnshire, met Dennis from Kenfig Hill, in the Pavilion, Porthcawl 52 years ago, while on holiday in south Wales.

The couple were married at St Bartolomew's in Boston, which is known locally as the Stump, as it was the church Christine had always attended.

Dennis was born in Kenfig Hill and they now live in that same house in East Avenue. Both are well known and popular members of the local community, with Christine being a member of the Ministry Team at St Theodore's Church and Dennis being secretary of the Kenfig Hill & Pyle homing Pidgeon Society.

They will be celebrating with their daughter Shirley, son-in-law Michael, son Robert, daughter-in-law Lynn and grandchildren Richard, Rachael, Amy and James, by having an open house at home tomorrow and then receiving a blessing in St Theodore's Church on Saturday.

This will be followed by a get-together with family and friends at the Grove Golf Club.

## Kenfig Hill parish

THE Mothers Union welcome everyone to a coffee morning in the meeting room at Theos', Bridge Street, Kenfig Hill on Saturday, April 2



Christine and Denis Portsmouth celebrate 50 years of marriage.

at 10.30am.

Mothering Sunday family services will be held on Sunday, April 3, at 9.30am in St Theodore's Church Kenfig Hill and at 6.00pm in St Coleman's Church, Cefn Cribwr.

## Councillor's Surgery

**CLIVE JAMES**, the county borough councillor representing Pyle and Kenfig Hill ward, will be holding advice surgeries on Saturday, April 9 at the Talbot Community Centre, 9 Prince Road Kenfig Hill from 10am – 11am and at the Pyle Life Centre, Pyle from 11.30am – 12noon. Contact Clive on 01656 741160.

## Pyle and Kenfig parish

THE annual vestry meeting will be held on Thursday, April 7 at 7pm. Nomination forms for PCC members and for people's wardens have been put up on notice boards in the Church and will be taken down on April 3.

There will be a meeting of the Social Sub in St James Church Hall at 7pm on Thursday, March 31. If anyone has any ideas for fundraising they would like you to speak to a committee member.

Another social evening has been organised, this time to see the football matches last Friday; however, they will be playing the quarter-final

We Will Rock You show at the Millennium Centre, Cardiff, on Tuesday, March 29. The coach will be leaving the church hall at 6pm.

## Pupils praised

CONGRATULATIONS to the following pupils of Mynydd Cynffig Junior School who were nominated for impressing the staff at the school last week: Ewan Orchard, Class 1, Liam Evans, Class 2, Rhys Davies, Class 3, Mali Llewellyn, Class 4, Callum Lewis, Class 5, Lee Boundford, Class 6 and Jorden Daniels from Class 7. The Headteacher's award went to Ethan Hopkins.

Congratulations also go to Cat Rogers, Megan Stevens, Emmi Joy, Taryn Matthews, Lois Flower, Christopher Hatherly, William Vaughan and Scott Roberts for their excellent behaviour during lunchtime last week, and as a reward they will be joining Mr Goldsworthy for lunch.

Well done to Ceiran Jones, a pupil from class 6, who has signed with Swansea City Football Club and is now a member of the club's centre of excellence. All the Teachers and pupils at the school send their good luck wishes to him.

There were no football matches last Friday; however, they will be playing the quarter-final

on March 11, a 'hen party' was held for one of the most popular ladies in Kenfig Hill, Roz Peers, who works in



COMMUNITY NEWS from KENFIG HILL AND PYLE by Richard Sims

Telephone: 01656 746840

Mobile: 07802 439679

E-Mail: richardsims@talktalk.net

rugby match at home against Oldcastle this week.

A book fair will be held at the school from April 4-8. Books will be available for purchase after school during that week.

Concert – Auditions have been taking place this week for the end of year concert. Each year their productions have become more and more ambitious and this year is no exception. Mynydd Cynffig will be presenting their own version of *The Little Mermaid* in the summer term.

Last week, classes 4 and 5 visited Cog Mors in Clynnodell near Cardiff to take part in science activities. They studied a number of areas of science, including forensic and environmental investigations.

Cog Mors has a 'hands-on' and outdoor approach to learning about water treatment and environmental issues, an opportunity the pupils cannot experience in school.

## Celebration

ON March 11, a 'hen party' was held for one of the most popular ladies in Kenfig Hill, Roz Peers, who has been diagnosed with cancer.

Full details on 07846 679152.

## The Carers' café serves community



**THERE'S more to Porthcawl's Wednesday café than soup, sandwiches and homemade cake, as Assembly candidate Suzy Davies found out.**

Porthcawl's 'Wednesday café' won glowing praise from Assembly Conservative candidate for South Wales West Lucy Davies who met staff and volunteers of Crossroads Care Bridgend County.

"The atmosphere is just as good as the food. The word has obviously got around, as the café was very busy. Locals were popping in for lunch, along with a number of carers who'd come in to spend the afternoon with their friends," she reported.

"The café is run as a not-for-profit organisation, supported in part by Bridgend County Borough Council. Nevertheless, this venue

the local post office shop and was whisked away to celebrate her 40th birthday, in the Grove Golf Club.

The major surprise was the present that they collectively gave her, a week's holiday to Magaluf. Her friends then had the biggest surprise of all, for the first time in her life – Roz was speechless.

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Cog Mors has a 'hands-on' and outdoor approach to learning about water treatment and environmental issues, an opportunity the pupils cannot experience in school.

There will be many events during the day including mini sports, karaoke, fancy dress and a disco. Tickets only £1. All proceeds will be donated to support a local family and their seven-year-old daughter Elva Costemooy, a pupil at Mynydd Cynffig Junior School, who has been diagnosed with cancer.

Full details on 07846 679152.

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Full details on 07846 679152.

# News in and out of class at the Litchard Primary School

## EISTEDDFODAU

ST DAVID'S Day was celebrated a little later this year with the junior department eisteddfod.

The event was a magnificent affair, with all pupils and staff getting involved for their relevant houses in Welsh dancing, singing, and oral recitations in Welsh and English.

Judging went on throughout the morning and judges had a very difficult task. Miss John and Mrs Leyshon kept the scores, and the results of the handwriting, English writing, poetry, Mari Lwyd tile printing, Welsh mirrors, coal miner sketches in pencil and charcoal and Eisteddfod Crowns, were also announced.

Certificates were awarded to the 1st, 2nd, 3rd place winners.

The eisteddfod concluded with the Chairing of the Bard – to Lewys Biggs 6R for his newspaper report on Island Farm.

The infant department eisteddfod was also a great success. Each year group sang beautifully, with some excellent solo singers. Year-1 acted several sketches in Welsh and Year-2's poetry recital and folk dancing showed excellent Welsh skills throughout Key Stage 1.

## WINNING HOUSE

IN a repeat of last year's results, Ty Porffor were the overall winners of eisteddfod 2011, narrowly beating last year's runners-up Ty Melyn.

Mrs Stephens commented on how impressed she was with the level of effort, accuracy and pronunciation that all the children had put into their performances.

## ESTYN INSPECTION

LITCHARD Primary was inspected by a team of inspectors from Estyn who were very complimentary about the behaviour and overall conduct of the children.

## EISTEDDFOD RESULTS

HANDWRITING: Year-3 – 1st, Robbie Williams – Eleri Thompson; 2nd, I Carly – Seren Dancey; 3rd, Princess – Estella Woronin.

Year-4 – 1st, Kesha – Millie Bryce; 2nd, Tatty Teddy – Kayleigh Granville; 3rd, Cuddles – Megan Davies.

Year-5 – 1st, Expeliamus 14 – Evan Laidler; 2nd, Edgeo – Emma Brook; 3rd, Baby Boo – Emily Bowden.

Year-6 – 1st, Magic – Jessica Craddock; 2nd, Ghostly 123 – Jacob Lewis; 3rd, The Black Curse – Harry Hopkins.

POETRY WRITING: Year-3 – 1st, Jack Rees – Euan Rees; 2nd, Rachel Lucy Thomas; 3rd, Eleri Thompson.

Year-4 – 1st, Kesha – Millie Bryce; 2nd, Co Co – Chloe Quinn; 3rd, Cuddles – Megan Davies.

Year-5 – 1st, Expeliamus 14 – Evan Laidler; 2nd, AKG 7X1 – Estyn Thomas; 3rd, Reznov – Ammon Radcliffe.

Year-6 – 1st, Purple Banana – Lewys Biggs; 2nd, Magic – Jessica Craddock; 3rd, Flaminny Gobble Gooble – Emily Cadman.

ENGLISH WRITING: Year-3 – 1st, Liam – Firebolt; 2nd, Olivia – Amy; 3rd, Ella Jones and Ben Jones.

Year-4 – 1st, I Hate School.com – Daniel Exton; 2nd, Cuddles – Megan Davies; 3rd, Kesha – Millie Bryce.

Year-5 – 1st, Meggie Moo – Megan Howe; 2nd, Expeliamus 14 – Evan Laidler; 3rd, Emily Osment – Abigail Linforth.

Year-6 – 1st, Lewys Biggs; 2nd, Sophie Penman; 3rd, Harry Hopkins, 3rd, Zoe Mountjoy.

## YEAR 3 – MARI LWYD TILE PAINTING

1st, Chloe – Ailish O'Sullivan; 2nd, Shane Williams – Ryan Neagle; 3rd, JLS – Lucy Thomas.

YEAR 4 – WELSH MIRRORS: 1st, Selena Gomez – Lois Cook; 2nd, Tattie Teddy – Kayleigh Granville; 3rd, Black Eyed Peas – Mia Pritchard.

YEAR 5 – COAL MINER SKETCHES: 1st, Steven Gerrard –

Kieran Evans; 2nd, Katy Perry – Maisie Penman; 3rd, Cesc Fabregas – Tom Lewis.

## YEAR 6 – EISTEDDFOD CROWNS

1st, Mamoon Ahmed; 2nd, Adam Thomas; 3rd, Megan Hamilton.

CHOIRS: 1st, Ty Melyn, Ty Coch; 2nd, Ty Porffor, Ty Oren.

## ENGLISH RECITATION

Year-3 – 1st, Dafydd Rees; 2nd, Lucy Thomas; 2nd, Liam Kilburn and Kai Newman; 4th, Eva Smith.

Year-4 – 1st, Kyle Channing; 2nd, Abigail Matthews; 3rd, Megan Davies; 3rd, Rhys Griffiths.

Year-5 – 1st, Callum Vause; 2nd, Nathan Alexander; 3rd, Iwan Wheeler; 4th, Erin Morgan.

Year-6 – 1st, Aaron Alston; 2nd, Jamie Davies; 3rd, Nia Bayliss; 4th, Nia Obaid.

## SINGING

Year-3 – 1st, Ryan Neagle and Ben Jones; 2nd, Tom Matthews; 3rd, Ethan Bromley; 3rd, Estella Woronin and Ella Jones; 3rd, Emma Bevan and Grace George.

Year-4 – 1st, Annie Llewellyn and Kayleigh Granville; 2nd, Ellie Williams; 2nd, Mia Pritchard and Millie Bryce; 4th, Lewis Jones and Rhys Loveluck.

Year-5 – 1st, Abigail Linforth, 1st, Evan Laidler; 3rd Tayla-Rae Lewis and Millie Burns; 3rd Laurie Morris and Ellie Davies

Year-6 – 1st, Megan Evans; 2nd, Jessica Craddock; 2nd, Harry Hopkins; 4th, Morgan David.

## FOLK DANCING

Year-3 – Ty Coch; Year-4 – Ty Porffor; Year-5 – Ty Melyn; Year-6 – Ty Coch, Ty Porffor.

## WELSH RECITATION

Year-3 – 1st, Tom Matthews; 2nd, Jordan Jones; 3rd, Louis Edwards, 3rd Olivia Howe.

Year-4 – 1st, Elizabeth Dowdall; 2nd, Chloe Quinn; 3rd, Megan Davies; 4th, Daniel Exton.

Year-5 – 1st, Megan Howe; 2nd, Lowri Howells; 3rd, Iestyn Thomas; 4th, Morgan Hall.

Year-6 – 1st, Dafydd Thomas; 2nd, Alex Harrison; 3rd, Ryan Kershaw, 3rd, Jack Bogue.

PIANO: The four entries for the piano competition all were so good that Miss John could not decide between them, so well done to Abigail Linforth, Lowri Howells, Megan Howe and Imogen Lewis who all shared first prize.

GUITAR: 1st, Bailey Ringham; 2nd, Matthew Bird; 3rd, Lewys Biggs.

## SCHOOL GYMNASTICS

THE school gymnastics team entered the Mid Glamorgan tumble and vault competition and narrowly missed out on bronze medals by 0.9 points.

This was a very reputable performance against gymnasts who are currently training with the British Squad.

## SUPER SWIMMER!

Well done to Ella Matthews from Miss Duffy's reception class who has recently passed her 5m swimming badge!

## WELL BOXED, BENJI!

CONGRATULATIONS to Benji Edwards 6S who won his second school boy boxing championship on February 22.

He beat boxers from Barry, Cardiff and Cwmbran to claim the Welsh vest. Benji has now fought 13 bouts with 12 wins – what a record!

## SPARE KIT NEEDED

DOES anyone have any spare sports kit such as shorts, t-shirts and joggers in junior sizes that their children have outgrown?

We do keep a small supply of kit, but this is often borrowed and not returned. Thank you.

## THANK YOU, IVOR!

A VERY big thank you to larger than life builder 'Ivor Goodsite', who visited our school this week to explain to the children all about the dangers on a building site.

**ANSWERS:**  
1. Eithin Cwylwr  
2. US Cyflwr  
3. Ddugiad Billets  
4. Hafleges.

Answers to  
Quiz League



LEFT:  
The choir  
do some  
last  
minute  
revision  
before  
taking to  
the stage  
at the  
Porthcawl  
Pavilion!

## YSTRADOWEN CHOIR IN PORTHCAWL FESTIVAL

COR Meibion Y Machlud of Ystradownen made a guest appearance at Porthcawl Pavilion's recent Cwlm Celtaidd festival of folk dancing and music.

This was followed by a lively evening in the 'Eisteddfod Mochyn Du held in Cardiff, when the choir sang traditional Welsh folk songs (Ar Hyd Y Nos, Cordydd and Cor

Oes Gafn Eto, Moliannwn) together with some well loved Welsh hymns (Deus Salutis and Gwahoddiad) to an appreciative Sunday afternoon audience in Porthcawl.

A

more competitive

atmosphere, however,

existed in Cardiff

where the choir was

competing against former National Eisteddfod winners

Cordydd and Cor

Mochyn Du, the last

named, playing at home, won the night's first prize awarded by the eminent adjudicator and conductor Alwyn Humphries, in a contest between six choirs.

While disappointed

not to have won more than a small consolation prize, Cor Meibion Y Machlud's musical director, Eifion Davies, felt that the choir's visit to Sophia Gardens had not been wasted.

"We need to compete

more often at this level

to continue with our preparations for this year's Eisteddfod in Aberteifi and (indeed the National) if we are to enter when it comes to the Vale next year," he said.

RICHARD KENNARD

## Ollie looking for a caring owner



ABOVE: Three-year-old Ollie is a playful cat who needs a new home.

THE Maesteg Animal Welfare Society (MAWS) is trying to find a home for Ollie.

Ollie is a three-year-old male tabby cat and has been neutered, microchipped and vaccinated.

Jan Brady from MAWS said: "Ollie is very playful, but a little boisterous with young children.

"He is one of many cats that we are looking to home at the moment."

To find out more, telephone Jan on 01656 721496.

## Search for a new Post Office in Wick

ANOTHER rural village is facing the loss of its Post Office – although in this case the closure has been described as "temporary".

Post Office Limited has written to "opinion formers" and customers in the area of Wick to inform them that, following the resignation of the subpostmaster and the withdrawal of the premises for Post Office use, the local branch will be closing temporarily on March 30.

A Post Office spokesman said: "I would like to assure everyone that it remains our intention to keep a Post Office service in Wick, and we are currently investigating the

options available.

"Our priority is to maintain Post Office services to local communities and it is therefore important that any future service is sustainable for the person operating the service, and for Post Office Limited.

"Post Office Limited would like to apologise for any inconvenience the temporary closure may cause and to thank our customers for their patience at this time.

Plaid Cymru AM Chris Francis said: "Plaid welcomes the assurances from the Post Office that they intend to keep a service in Wick.

"I hope the residents of Wick and the surrounding area will not have to wait long for an alternative service."

## THE ROAD CROSSING DEBATE CONTINUES

THE possibility of providing a pedestrian crossing at Newton Nottage Road in Porthcawl is still under consideration.

The Capital Projects Committee of the town council heard that a pedestrian survey carried out on the road showed that there was a low usage of people crossing the road.

Coun Norah Clarke said that for crossing to be regarded as warranted, it must score 100 in the survey but the Newton Nottage Road site scored only 4.2. She said that Fulmar Road scored more with 6.

Coun Clarke said it was an unjustified use of public money to place a

crossing in an area which professionals felt was not necessary.

The scheme has been strongly supported by Coun Alana Davies who said that residents of houses on the side of the road furthest from town had been campaigning for a crossing.

The cost of providing a crossing has been given as £40,000 plus, and Coun Gerald Davies asked if it was legal for the council to spend money against the professional advice of experts.

*This is to be investigated by clerk Alison Leyshon with a report back to a full council meeting.*

## NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM. If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me. I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: CLIVE MITCHELL  
1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ  
TEL: 01656 725399  
email: tyncoed1@yahoo.co.uk



### Support group

THE Clinical Support Group has been formed to provide advice and information to patients, family members and friends of anyone who has had surgery for bowel or bladder problems.

The group will be meeting in the residents' block community hall of the Princess of Wales hospital on Friday, March 25 between 2pm-3.30pm. Everyone is welcome and refreshments will be provided. For details, telephone Jackie on 07843 988432.

### Maesteg U3A

THE February meeting of this charity was very well attended when the speaker Jane

Woodford's subject was 'Israel and the Arab World'.

It was an informative and balanced narrative, covering the political divides between the people, the boundaries of the countries, and problems caused within these divides.

The subject created a spirited debate among the members.

The next meeting of the U3A will be held at the Central Church Hall, opposite the bus station at 2.30pm on March 29. The speaker, Mr Roy Evans, will speak on 'Climate change and you'.

### Cross-country

TYN'RHEOL primary school head-teacher Martin Griffiths, is pleased with its involvement in the cross-country races that take place at secondary schools in the Bridgend CBC area.

At the last race in Cynffig, the school had four competitors taking part: Amber Crowle, Ioan Davies, Kai Lewis and Jake Whitfield.

Local businessman Lindsay Morgan has been elected chairman of the committee and has brought together a team of people from various groups in the town to form the committee.

Each term, friends of the school donate a book to the most improved reader in each class.

This term, the most improved readers were: Class 1 – Eithan Thomas who was presented with *My Treasury of Fairy Tales*. Class 2 – Kalem Podmore received a *Children's Knowledge Encyclopaedia*. Class 3 – Amber Croale received *Children's Illustrated Internet Linked Encyclopaedia*.

The books were presented at the school assembly.

### Basic skills

TONDU primary school head Mrs Sue Pilshier praised teacher Miss Handley, who had volunteered to co-ordinate work produced to demonstrate the pupils' development in basic skills.

Last week, there was

an assessor at the school who spent a day talking with the staff, pupils, governors and parents. Through the efforts of everyone involved, the school has again been awarded the 'Basic Skills' quality standard.

Mr Lewis' class would like to invite all parents and friends to share in their class assembly at 10.20am tomorrow (Friday, March 25).

The lunch only costs £2.50 and all money raised will be donated to the charity.

### Music extravaganza

MAESTEG Gleemen male voice choir is holding its annual concert in the town hall, Maesteg on Saturday, March 26 at 7pm.

The choir under its musical director Alun Hodges, also has a number of solo artists taking part.

Tickets on sale at the ticket office or telephone John on 01656 735007/739365.

The choir rehearses at the Royal British Legion club, Commercial Road on Monday/Thursday evenings 7pm-8.30pm. Visitors are always welcome.

### Ladies choir

Côr Merched Cwm Garw (Garw Valley ladies choir) is holding its annual concert on Friday, March 25 at 7.15pm in Blaengarw Rugby Club.

Joining them will be guests Ogmore Valley male voice choir and music will be provided by the Pencoed silver band.

The ladies choir rehearses in the Pontycymer old age pensioners centre on Friday evenings between 7.30pm-8.30pm. Visitors and new members welcome. More information on 01656 871024.

## Loyal Dottie needs a home

*The GEM is in partnership with the Dog's Trust to find caring homes for animals in their charge at Bridgend Rehoming Centre (Telephone: 01656 725219)*

THIS week, Linda Feagan highlights Dottie, a nine-year-old terrier.

Dottie is currently overweight, so is on a diet and exercise plan – she loves her walks and off-leash runs! She is a strong-minded little girl, and will need an owner who is used to terrier types.

She will need a few visits from her prospective owner before being rehomed. Once she has bonded with you she is really worth the effort – a loving and loyal little dog!

She is house-trained, and fine to be left alone for a few hours. Dottie is looking for an adult-only home, and would love to be the only dog – and the centre of attention! Please consider her, she is really missing some home comforts.

If you would like to offer Dottie a home, visit the Dogs Trust, Court Colman, Pen-y-Fai, Bridgend, or call 01656 725219. You can see Dottie and some of her friends online at [www.dogstrust.org.uk](http://www.dogstrust.org.uk)



DOTTIE.

## PUPILS HELP OUT MARIE CURIE



PUPILS from year-1 at High Street Primary school, Barry, raised an amazing £123 for Marie Curie Cancer Care by taking part in the 'Mini Pots of Care' project.

Each child grew a daffodil from a bulb and donated money to take it home. The children also hosted their own Daffodil Day tea party to raise even more money.

The project was thoroughly enjoyed by all and the school is thrilled to have raised so much money for a very worthy cause.

On Friday, the class followed up with even more fundraising by dressing up as monsters for Comic Relief.



ABOVE: The pupils proudly show off their daffodils for Marie Curie.

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## School speakers hit the heights!



THE Ysgol Bro Morgannwg junior public speaking team, Owen Young, Robin Tait, and Leah Robinson (year-9) achieved an astonishing second place out of 72 teams in the South Wales Rotary Competition held recently at

Crickhowell.

The school was delighted that Robin won the prize for best proposer.

A magnificent result for these young people, promoting bilingualism at its best. MT

## Pupils go to great lengths for breast cancer charity



CHILDREN and teachers at St David's Church in Wales pool as they could in one hour. Mrs Rosser, who coordinated Primary School, Colwinston, the sponsorship effort, said: "At recently took part in a sponsored swim - to raise funds to support the new breast cancer unit, lengths for life was a great opportunity for the children, and teachers alike, to be based at Llandough hospital.

They had to swim as many physically active and to raise funds for such a worthwhile

cause, in a fun and enjoyable way.

"A total of £450 was raised and many, many lengths were swum! Thanks to everyone who gave their time, to support this fundraising event so enthusiastically."

THERE was an article in The GEM on February 24 regarding the 180th anniversary of the *Frolic* steamer disaster, wrecked off

Nash Sands in March 1831 and the history of the Nash Lighthouses.

A gathering of interested people recently met at Nash Lighthouse to commemorate the occasion, organised by Brian Keitch who has researched the disaster.

He arranged with Trinity House to pay a visit to the lighthouse at Nash.

It was a most interest-

ing afternoon, with people coming from all over the Vale. At the same time, a plaque was unveiled on the Quay at Haverfordwest to commemorate the *Frolic*, which sailed from there on that fateful night.

There were no survivors and bodies are buried throughout the coastal area of the Bristol Channel. I did some research of my own and found one to be

buried in the churchyard of St Bridget's, St Brides Major. James Lloyd, late butler of R L Ackland of Boulston in the county of Pembroke was one of the unfortunate passengers who perished on that night.

ORRA celebrated two birthdays at their last meeting on Thursday, March 18; Miriam (90) and Joy (81). 'Happy birthday' was sung to them. Members also enjoyed a film by Geoff and Rhiannon of their holiday cruise.

EILEEN MATHEWS celebrated her 'bus pass' birthday with family and friends at the Fox and Hounds on March 18, to make it a three-day event, she was also mentioned on

a BBC programme by Owen Money on Saturday.

Eileen hasn't been well of late, but is now making good progress. She requested any

## Mayor's ValePlus coffee morning

VALEPLUS, the local charity that provides lifelong learning and leisure opportunities for people with learning disabilities, will be holding a fundraising morning on Tuesday, March 29.

The event is hosted by the Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan and will be held at St Helen's Church Hall on Wyndham Street, Barry, between 10.30am-12noon. Tickets cost £1.50 and include tea/coffee and a biscuit.

There will be a range of stalls to include cake, crafts, toiletries, as well as a raffle.

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# Out and About with The GEM

## The day Merlin and Arthur met a certain Merlin and Arthur!

BARRY Island theatre group T4K have been busy rehearsing for their new show, the hilarious musical 'What a Knight', set in Camelot.

T4K's Merlin and Arthur recently visited Amelia Trust Farm and met their new donkeys, who as if by magic, were also called Merlin and Arthur!

Dedicated volunteers organised various fundraising events to buy the donkeys and hope to train them to give children rides. The group also aim to raise

### BEACH CLEAN

**Friends of Barry Beaches** will meet for their March beach clean at Porthkerry beach on Sunday, March 27 at 3pm (by the cafe).

The February beach clean at Jackson's Bay was a great success, with six bags of recycling and five bags of rubbish being collected.



FROM ONE MERLIN TO ANOTHER..!

enough funds to buy a foal.

A spokeswoman reported: "Hannah (King Arthur) and Sarah (Merlin the magician) had great fun getting to know the donkeys, but the four-legged Merlin and Arthur seemed a little dazzled by their namesakes costumes." T4K will be performing

'What a Knight' at Barry Island Community Centre at 7.30pm on April 1-2. There is also a matinee on Saturday at 2.30pm. Tickets are available from A & A Dancewear, Park Crescent Barry or on the door. Merlin and Arthur the donkeys can be seen at Amelia Trust Farm, Five Mile Lane, Barry.

### Art in Penarth

**APRIL** being the garden season, the Washington Gallery at Penarth is showing a collection of art and crafts, all related to the outdoors.

Dibbers and plants, pots and tealights, ceramic tables, photographs and garden tableaux fused in glass all have been moved into the upper gallery for one month, beginning on April 1.

In the lower gallery will be artist Jane Maddox, with her spectacular display of nature-inspired paper displays.

This includes a rare butterfly species installation along the back wall.

### Children's books winners

**THE** winners of our recent competition were Ieuan Brown, Cowbridge; Sarah John, Cefn Glas; Jon Foyle, Maendy, and Jacqui Evans, Talbot Green - congratulations to you all, and look out for more great GEM competitions!

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## 'JOIN THE MACMILLAN CENTENARY CHALLENGE'

**MACMILLAN Cancer Support** which is celebrating its 100th birthday this year, has joined forces with The GEM to urge local companies to help raise funds during centenary year - by taking part in a Centenary Challenge.

Sue Pickin, fundraising manager, said: "It's a chance for businesses to help Macmillan build on all that we have been able to achieve so far.

"There are 120,000 people living with cancer in Wales, and this figure is set to double by 2030.

"Macmillan aims to be there for patients and their families and carers throughout their cancer experience, helping to make life easier through medical, emotional, financial and practical support, but we cannot do this on our own."

To sign up and to receive a fundraising pack, please contact Sue Pickin on 01656 867966 or email [spickin@macmillan.org.uk](mailto:spickin@macmillan.org.uk).

### Pub quiz helps out charities!



**FOR** the past two years, the Blacksmiths Arms at Llanmaes has been the venue for a Wednesday evening quiz night and the £1.50 entry charge raises approximately £1,500 each year, all of which is donated to local charities.

Last year, 'World at Play' received the £1,500 to help fund a third expedition to the orphanges of eastern Europe, leaving south Wales this June.

Pictured with Peter Emery (a Llanmaes resident and occasional quizmaster) is Steve Thomas, who represented and collected £300 last week for the local-based charity ValePlus.

Steve explained to those taking part in last Wednesday's quiz that the donation will assist in the work of ValePlus, which supports adults within our community with learning difficulties.



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## Charity walk for brain tumour foundation

**THE** Ed Evans Foundation is asking supporters to make time for a charity walk on Sunday, May 1.

The

charity is challenging 100 businesses in the area to come forward and each pledge to raise £1,000 for Macmillan during 2011.

Whether it's through staff taking part in events, encouraging support from customers or making a donation, there are many ways to get involved:

"Together, you and another 99 companies could raise £100,000 which could fund a Macmillan nurse for two years. Your company will get real business benefits (and have fun!) by taking part, engaging with the community and your staff, while at the same time helping to make a real difference to the lives of local people affected by cancer," Sue explained.

"Macmillan aims to be there for patients and their families and carers throughout their cancer experience, helping to make life easier through medical, emotional, financial and practical support, but we cannot do this on our own."

To sign up and to receive a fundraising pack, please contact Sue Pickin on 01656 867966 or email [spickin@macmillan.org.uk](mailto:spickin@macmillan.org.uk).

Royal Navy.

This is the fourth year that the foundation has organised a charity walk, and supporters have the choice of opting for a long or short walk.

Both walks start from the Horseshoe Inn, Marcross, and the long walk leaves at 10am, and the short at 11am.

An entry form and further information is available from [www.edevansfoundation.co.uk](http://www.edevansfoundation.co.uk) or by telephone from 01656 890217 or 01656 890309.

## Mike gets top artist accolade from society

**THE** Cowbridge Art Society annual spring competition for the Keith Jones Trophy took place on Thursday and the subject this year was 'shadows'.

There were many entries and the standard was high. They were judged by Lloyd Rowe, who eventually chose a painting by Mike Davies.

The photograph shows Lloyd Rowe, Mike Davies and Keith James, who presented the trophy.



### Charity ball

**A** GLAMOROUS masked ball is to be held at Dyffryn Gardens to raise funds for the Vale of Glamorgan Mayor's charities.

The evening will also include a charity auction, and the mayor, Councillor Colin Osborne, has chosen East Vale

Community Transport, Ashgrove School in Penarth and Llandough School Association, as the mayoral charities for his year of office.

The event is taking place on March 26 at 12 noon - 3pm, starting in King Square on Holton Road, Barry, with the walk itself taking place between 1pm and 1.30pm.

Participants will walk a mile wearing women's shoes, but they are also encouraged to fully dress in female clothing!

Women are also invited to join the walk or to support male participants.

This year's event is the first such walk in Wales and aims to raise funds to

### Walk a mile in her shoes!

continue offering support to women and families in need.

On March 26, an information stall will be set up from 12 noon until 3pm. The charity will provide a limited amount of shoes available on the day (for a £5 donation) but individuals taking part are encouraged to bring their own foot wear.

Entry forms are available from Atal-y-Fro on [info@atal-y-fro.org](mailto:info@atal-y-fro.org) or 01446 744755. Entries on the day are also possible.

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# June curtain-raising ceremony will welcome the Eisteddfod to the Vale

**MORE details have been released about the scale of the project involved in bringing the National Eisteddfod to the Vale in 2012.**

These emerged at last week's meeting of the Vale Council cabinet. The Eisteddfod will be hosted in the Vale between August 4 and August 11.

The report considered by the cabinet revealed that the site in Llandow will cover an area of 120 acres, and is in the ownership of a number of landowners.

The cost of staging the Eisteddfod is estimated at £3.6m of which 25 per cent is contributed by the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG).

The site would accommodate the Maes, as well as car parking, a caravan site, camping and the Youth Maes.

The report says that the event is seen as a major opportunity for the council, and as a result a working party has been established to liaise with Eisteddfod organisers in making arrangements.

It will also look at ways of raising the profile of the area.

One event that will be a 'curtain raiser' is a 'Proclamation Ceremony' which will be held on June 25 this year in either Cowbridge or Barry.

This ceremony will "formally announce" the intention to hold the Eisteddfod at Llandow in 2012 and will involve a public procession, as well as a formal event centred on an area around specially constructed Gorsedd Stones.

The report says that discussions are taking place about a suitable location but the event will be organised by the Eisteddfod.

**PROCLAMATION**

*Shortly before The GEM went to press, the National Eisteddfod committee issued a statement saying that the proclamation ceremony would take place in Barry on June 25, in the Memorial Gardens.*

A spokeswoman said: "According to tradition the intention to stage an Eisteddfod must be announced at least one year and a day before the actual Eisteddfod.

"The Gorsedd of the Bards, along with representatives from local schools, institutions and societies, will march through the town centre on their way to the proclamation ceremony, which will be held at the Memorial Gardens in Barry."

She continued: "The Vale of Glamorgan's link with the Gorsedd of the Bards is, of course, a strong one.

"The Gorsedd of Bards is an association whose members consists of poets, writers, musicians, artists and individuals who have made a distinguished contribution to the Welsh nation.

"It also includes many well known figures in Welsh life, such as actors Ioan Gruffydd and Mathew Rhys, rugby players Gareth Edwards and Ieuan Evans, cricketer Robert Croft, Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury, opera star Bryn Terfel and broadcaster Angharad Mair, to name only a few.

"The Gorsedd members are known as Druids, although it must be stressed that there is no connection between the association and druidism as a religion.

"The Gorsedd of the Bards was the creative invention of Iolo Morganwg, raised in Flemingstone in the Vale, one of Wales' most famous and eccentric scholars. He felt that it should be made known that the Welsh were the direct descendants of Celtic culture and heritage.

"Iolo Morganwg went as far as to link the Welsh with the ancient druids, who were the guardians of the Celtic civilisations before the Romans and the Saxons came to Britain. He was even known to have forged documents in a bid to substantiate his claims."

A prominent part will be played by girls from numerous Vale schools when they perform the Flower Dance for the first time.

Following an open

The bulk of costs is met by the Eisteddfod themselves, and a contribution is made via the WLGA as the local authority contribution towards organising Eisteddfods at specific locations every year.

## REPORT by PHILIP IRWIN

audition, 32 girls aged 8–10 have now been chosen from schools all across the Vale to perform the dance, and will soon start rehearsals under the supervision of

Anne Hughes and Rhian James who will tutor the dance.

During the ceremony, the first copy of the 'List of Competitions' will be presented to the

Archdruid T James Jones by the chair of the local executive committee, Dylan Jones, and once the list has been presented, its contents is made public, and the work of preparing for the competitions can start.

The spokeswoman said: "It's a colourful and dignified way of showcasing the Eisteddfod and increasing awareness about what will take place in the Vale in 500 days time."

Anyone wishing to get

involved with preparations for the 2012 National Eisteddfod should contact the office on 0845 4090 300 or by email on [gwyb@eisteddfod.org.uk](mailto:gwyb@eisteddfod.org.uk). For more information go to [www.eisteddfod.org.uk](http://www.eisteddfod.org.uk)

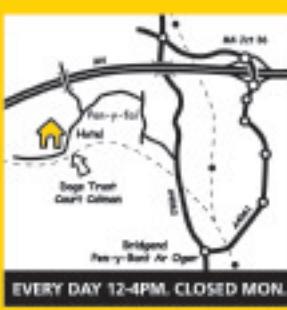
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# MOTHER'S DAY

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Of course, on Sunday, April 3 it is important that, if possible, family members visit their mum with a card and box of chocolates, and maybe follow that up with a Sunday lunch booked in one of the numerous pubs and restaurants in the Vale and Bridgend areas.

But nowadays the gift market has expanded, offering a huge range of gifts with that little bit extra in terms of sentiment, interest or excitement.

One new market, which has been partly generated by the flexibility of browsing on-line, is in finding a gift that is made individual to the person you love.

Personalised presents ensure you can have a particular set of words engraved or carved on the gift. There are staple 'personalisations' such as on stationery or on a card, but the choice is far wider than that.

Personalised gifts can include pieces of jewellery such as necklaces and lockets, picture frames which could include a photograph with a

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sentimental flavour, crystal glasses, compact mirrors, champagne – even wooden cheeseboards in a heart-shape! – the list goes on and on.

Another popular surprise gift is a day out – a visit to the theatre, a pampering session at a health spa, a mini cruise on the River Severn or the Thames, or perhaps a National Trust day out at one of Britain's great castles or stately homes.

A flight from a local airfield taking in the Vale of Glamorgan's Heritage Coast and the Bristol Channel can provide an unforgettable day out.

Mini breaks over a weekend to west Wales, the west country, the Cotswolds are within easy striking distance of the Vale and Bridgend.

For those who want to combine a break with sight-seeing there are always travel companies that provide weekend packages to London, Paris or Dublin.

So there is no excuse! With a little thought, and a visit to a travel agent or a few moments browsing on-line, you could find the gift that your mother will remember for years to come.

#### LOOKING FOR A DIFFERENT TREAT FOR MOTHER'S DAY?

One idea comes from the Vale Resort Hotel, which is offering a 'Pamper Package' – an indulging treat for the senses!

A spokeswoman said: "Start off in the celebrated spa with a deep cleansing and rehydrating Vale Spa 'Feel Good Facial', followed by an Express Manicure.

The rest of the afternoon can be spent enjoying the resort's extensive leisure and relaxation facilities before finishing the day with a traditional afternoon tea in the tranquil relaxation lounge.

It is available for £49 per person, so daughters can come along too! For more information, telephone 01443 665863.



*The traditional flowers and chocolates - but what else is there on the market?*

## Gifts for keen gardener on Mother's Day

by HANNAH STEPHENSON

FLORISTS may be busy in the run-up to Mother's Day on Sunday, April 3, but with a little forethought you can buy your mum a present which will last much longer than a bouquet of flowers.

Garden centres, nurseries and online retailers are awash with Mother's Day

gifts, from soft-handled secateurs to pretty kneeling cushions, pampering hand creams, muscle-relaxing bath salts, specialist gloves plus a host of ornaments to remind her of you.

Even those on the tightest budget can bag a gift which will give pleasure for years to come. Your local area will have stores where you can pick up a shrub or fruit bush for just a pound or two, ranging from roses and escallonia to blueberries and potentillas.

There's still time to sow some seeds, but if you want to give them as a gift, why not go for a range of beautifully packaged seeds including chilli, spring onion, basil, chives, mint, carrots and others, which come in lovely packets.

The seeds can all be grown in window boxes, pots or large containers on the smallest of patios or roof terraces.

Keen vegetable growers may want to extend their repertoire to more unusual veg, so why not buy your mother something she hasn't grown before, such as mushrooms?

You can buy a white button mushroom kit, which will also be easy to gift wrap, which has everything you need to grow mushrooms and could boost confidence to grow other, more difficult veg.

And finally, a well selected garden ornament can give years of pleasure – a search on-line or a visit to your local garden centre will provide a good selection.

### The Highwayman Inn

#### UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

#### NEW QUALITY PUB FOOD MENU

including big steaks & the famous Condemned Man's Meal



#### MEALS SERVED EVERY DAY

Monday - Thursday: 12 noon - 9pm last orders  
Friday - Saturday: 12 noon - 9.30pm last orders

#### TRADITIONAL SUNDAY ROAST

plus Normal Menu – Served every Sunday 12 noon - 5pm

#### OVER 60's SPECIAL MENU

Monday - Friday: 12 noon - 3pm

Just a small example:

Hand Battered Cod, Ham, Egg & Chips,  
6oz Gammon Steak, Steak & Ale Pie, Scampi,  
Liver & Onions - Plus many more!

ONLY  
**£3.95**

#### Mothers Day - Sunday, April 3rd

3 Course Lunch - Children's Menu also available

Served 12 noon - 5pm • 3 Sittings Available • Booking Essential  
FREE GIFT FOR MUM

#### Good Friday 22nd April - FAMILY FUN DAY

Easter Egg Hunt - Bouncy Castle - Face Painting - Children's Entertainer

Full Menu Available

Now taking Bookings for EASTER SUNDAY - April 24th

#### Band Night

Last Saturday of every month  
26th March - SWITCH - 60's Rock,  
Pop, Reggae, etc. - Starts at 9pm

Minibus service available for diners - phone for details.

Nurston, Nr. Rhoose - Tel. 01446 710205/07596 630057

Email fisherman3268@yahoo.co.uk

### Da Gennaro

#### RISTORANTE ITALIANO

#### Lunchtime Offer

available Tuesday to Saturday

12 midday - 2.30pm

1 course - £3.50; 2 courses - £6.95

#### Early Supper Offer

available Monday - Thursday

5.30pm - 8.00pm

2 courses - £9.95

includes Free Drink - 1/2 pint of Peroni,  
125ml Glass of Wine or Soft Drink

Weekend menu served 5.30pm -

10.30pm

2 courses - £15.95; 3 courses - £17.95

#### Mother's Day

Sunday, 3rd April

12 - 3pm 3 Courses £11.95

Children's menu available (10 yrs &amp; under)

#### BOOK NOW!

Starting Sunday 27th March

&amp; every other Sunday after

#### Music & Karaoke night

&amp; eat as much as you like buffet

Only £15

#### ONLY WITH THIS VOUCHER

Dine in and have 2 starters &amp;

2 main courses &amp; get the cheapest

main course FREE

up to the value of £10

(Valid 1st April to 30th April - cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer) Excludes 3rd April.

71 HIGH STREET, BARRY

Tel. 01446 732557





# Say **Fontygary Leisure Park** to a fabulous time!



## Fontygary Leisure Park welcomes the public to its 21st century facilities

**F**ONTYGARY Leisure Park is a hidden gem – a refurbished 21st century entertainment and fitness complex open to the public all year round.

It is a whole new world once people turn off Fontygary Road in Rhoose and drive through the archway into the park.

For Fontygary Leisure Park manager,

Jennie Flanigan, it is a source of amusement that Vale people still ask her whether they can use the wide range of facilities and attend the family events held weekly. "I tell them we are

open to the public – everyone is welcome to come! They think they have to be a member, but they don't."

The park comprises a leisure complex with state-of-the-art facilities, and holiday homes – all complete with stunning views across the Bristol Channel.

The leisure and fitness facilities include a cardiovascular room complete with rowers, bikes and cross trainers, a weights room, a jacuzzi, a sauna and an impressive pool with fun equipment like slides and wobstacles for the children.

Some people are intimidated by the idea of going to 'health and fitness' clubs and committing themselves to year-long memberships, but Jennie emphasised that at Fontygary everything is very relaxed.

"We have people aged from 16-85 who use the facilities.

"People don't have contracts to sign and can use them daily or monthly."

"Tying people in during the present climate is not fair and we aim to



The newly-refurbished bar.

be flexible and affordable – there are even student rates to help those who may be back in the area for a short period like a couple of months."

"The pool is open to the public seven days a week."

The leisure park involvement in the community has extended to aiding the recovery of injured soldiers and supporting Help for Heroes, a cause close to the heart of leisure park owner Tim McIlveen,

who served in the army. Jennie explained: "We have physio sessions in the pool for recuperating soldiers such as paratroopers back from Afghanistan.

"There were problems with the ceiling of the

pool at St Athan and we

were pleased to help

them out with a special

deal."

Tim had the original idea for the 'Expedition to Helmand', in which St Mary Church villagers and other local volunteers combined to raise almost £30,000 for Help for Heroes.

The volunteers,

including staff from the

leisure park, walked to

'Helmand'

on treadmills

arranged by Tim.

Fontygary Leisure

Park has been a part of

the Vale community for

more than 50 years

and has a dedicated staff of

40 people to look after

visitors.

But people should

also be aware of the

family events going on

every week. Again peo-

ple don't have to be

members."

There's a family

friendly bar with

karaoke on Friday and

Saturday evenings;

a quiet bar downstairs

where people can enjoy

a drink and watch big

sporting events on wide

screen TV; and a cabaret

lounge upstairs with

Friday night bingo and

pool.

Fontygary Leisure

Park

is open to the

public with shows & Free Children's

entertainment every Friday & Saturday

in the family bar throughout the season.

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Fontygary Leisure

LEADER SAYS THAT PAY LEVELS ARE INDEPENDENTLY REVIEWED

# TWO LOCAL COUNCILS PAY OUT £1.5M TO 12 SENIOR OFFICERS

**THE salaries and employment packages of just 12 officers working for Bridgend and Vale borough councils cost the taxpayers of those two areas a total of more than £1.5m in the financial year 2009-10.**

Each council employs six people whose packages exceed £100,000. These include pension contributions from the councils as employers and also, in Bridgend's case, benefits in kind.

The total bill for Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) for employing the six chief officers comes to £784,000, while in the Vale Council, the amount for the six is £818,000.

The figures, which have been compiled by the Taxpayers' Alliance from the council's own annual accounts, show that out of all the local authorities in Wales, Bridgend and the Vale are only behind Cardiff, which employs 15 people on that pay scale, and two other councils – Rhondda Cynon Taf and Torfaen, which employ seven.

Bridgend also had seven for part of the financial year 2009-10, for which these figures

prelate, but axed the Director of Corporate Services post in February 2010.

Bridgend and the Vale are on a par with Blaenau Gwent, Carmarthenshire, Flintshire, Neath Port Talbot, Newport, Pembrokeshire and Swansea, which all have six officers whose remuneration packages exceed £100,000.

But they are well ahead of many other councils which employ fewer on those pay scales. Ceredigion has only one while Anglesey, Conwy and Merthyr Tydfil have two and Powys has three. The rest have either four or five.

At Bridgend, two of the chief officers are paid salaries of £99,646 – which is below the threshold used by government and others to assess levels of chief officers salaries being paid.

But in both cases, benefits in kind amounting to over £6,000 take their remuneration over that threshold.

Chief executive Jo Farrar is the top earner at the authority with a total package of £170,310. Her actual salary is £131,251 but there are further benefits in kind of £11,101 and pension contributions of £27,529. Her package decreased by 0.3 per cent over the

previous year with a drop in actual cash of £500.

Her opposite number at the Vale Council – John Maitland Evans – took a 10 per cent cut over this period, amounting to £20,000.

His package in 2008-09 was £199,181 but this fell to £179,126 for 2009-10 – the latest year for which these figures are available.

His package for the year is broken down as £146,417 salary and £31,480 pension. There are no benefits in kind.

The highest paid director in Bridgend is Hilary Anthony, who runs the Children's Directorate. Her package was worth £130,027 in 2009-10, made up of salary of £104,068, benefits in kind of £3,740 and pension of £21,854.

Louise Fradd, who is corporate director of Communities has a package worth £127,875, up 2.4 per cent on the previous year.

Her salary is £99,646 with benefits in kind of another £7,037 and pension contributions a further £20,926.

Abigail Harris, who

## REPORT by JAYNE ISAAC

is director of Well Being, has a package worth £126,773.

Her salary was £99,646 with a further £6,182 in benefits in kind and £20,926 in pension contributions.

Two assistant chief executives also have packages in excess of £100,000.

Andrew Jolley, who is assistant chief executive for legal and regulatory, has a package of £116,139. This is made up of a salary of £88,458 with benefits in kind of £8,853 and pension contributions of £18,576.

Dave MacGregor, who is assistant chief executive for corporate development, had a 2.3 per cent increase, taking his package to £112,926. His salary was £86,582 with benefits in kind of £7,861 and pension contributions of £18,182.

In the Vale, most of the chief officers have packages of £129,000 plus.

Her salary is £99,646 with benefits in kind of another £7,037 and pension contributions a further £20,926.

Peter Evans, director of legal, public protection and housing, gets a salary of £105,280 with

a pension contribution of £22,681.

Bryan Jeffreys, director of learning and development, gets an overall package of £127,915 with a salary of £105,280 and £22,635 towards his pension.

Rob Quick, director of environmental and economic regeneration, has a package worth £129,191 with a salary of £105,280 and pension contributions of £22,635.

Sian Davies, who is director of finance, ICT and property, has a package of £129,085 with a salary of £105,280 and pension contributions of £22,635.

The Vale's director of social services, Philip Evans, gets a

package worth £123,850 – made up of salary of £101,647 and pensions contributions of £21,854.

All of these figures relate to the year 2009-10. The new figures for the financial year 2010-11, which ends at the beginning of April, are not yet available.

The GEM asked both councils to comment on their chief officers' remuneration packages.

Vale Council leader Gordon Kemp said that chief officers' salaries were reviewed by independent employment specialists in 2004.

He went on: "In the council's budget for 2010-11, we committed to reducing the salary bill for our senior managers by more than £500,000 in the next two years.

"Phase one has been implemented and this

saw the loss of seven senior manager posts at head of service and operational manager levels, a percentage cut that far exceeds the proportionate cut across the rest of the council's workforce."

He said that no chief officer received a national pay award in 2009-10 or subsequently. The pay freeze will continue for some time.

He added: "Councils are the most transparent organisations. Not all public bodies publish senior management salaries to the same extent as us.

"There needs to be a more even-handed way of handling senior salary issues across the public sector as a whole, which I readily accept should be in the public domain and subject to scrutiny."

A BCBC spokesman

had this to say: "Bridgend County Borough Council features one of the smallest corporate management teams in Wales.

"We have three senior officers on a salary range of up to £104,000 and one on a salary range of up to £131,000.

"It is important to remember the size and scope of the council. The authority is the largest employer in the area and provides vital services that have an effect on the lives of every resident.

"As such, the council has to compete with private business in attracting the best candidates who can undertake the responsibilities required by senior roles and ensure that local communities receive high quality services."

## ADVANCE NOTICE

### £675,000

## STORE CLEARANCE SALE STARTS NEXT WEEK

### ENTIRE FURNITURE STOCK FOR IMMEDIATE DISPOSAL

Celebrity, Alstons, Makasa Cane, JC & MP Smith, Jade, Milano, Victoria Oak, Bauerhaus, Atlantic, Harrison, Silentnight, Myers, Staples, Rest Assured, Kaymed, Dorlux, Kingstown, Rauch, Wiemann, Etc., Etc

## MASSIVE 3 DAY PUBLIC SALE STARTS FRIDAY APRIL 1st at 10AM

THIS IS GOING TO BE OUR GREATEST EVER SALE SINCE WE OPENED OUR FIRST STORE

IN BRIDGEND OVER 30 YEARS AGO! Now, to improve our service for the future and to coincide with the relocation of our warehouse, we will undertake a massive showroom & warehouse clearing & remerchandising project. We must clear all our stock without delay, so that this major work may commence. The store is presently closed while we reduce prices and prepare the displays for the launch of our £675,000 CLEARING & UPDATING GRAND FURNITURE SALE.

All Stock Must Be Sold Including:

Easy chairs, recliners, riser recliners, dining tables & chairs, sofas, sideboards, beds, adjustable electric beds, bedframes, bunks, mattresses, sofa beds, robes, chests, bookcases, coffee tables, mirrors, etc.

Absolutely Everything Must Be Sold Out a.s.a.p!

EVERY ITEM WILL BE DRASTICALLY REDUCED!  
THIS WILL BE OUR BIGGEST EVER SALE!

"All display models and warehouse stock ..plus all new Factory orders ..will be on sale to you with bigger savings than ever in our history" Andrew Ezard - Director

SEE NEXT WEEK'S PAPER FOR FURTHER DETAILS

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Also any LHD cars. Same day cash and collection.  
Please call Rod for a friendly informal chat.

07768 911944



# As the clocks go forward, the feel good factor returns!

**T**HAT blessed time of year is almost upon us – when the clocks jump forward an hour, and we can say goodbye to the long, dark days of winter!

With lighter evenings and more sunshine, there's a feel-good factor that makes people want to make the most of the spring and summer months.

The clocks go forward on Sunday, March 27, and herald a time when people are enthusiastic to see tasks completed around the house and garden.

The official arrival of summertime is actually at 1am on March 27, so from next week the lighter evenings are here – make sure you make the most of them!

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If you need someone who is reliable, professional and can do the work at a sensible price:

Call Gareth: **01446 794134** (Office)  
**07795 363175** (Mobile)



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**"WHO CARES WINS"**

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Call Rob - Local and Reliable

**Tel: 01446 773220 • Mob: 07828 100516**  
Free Quotations

## STONEWORK SPECIALIST

### Make your garden look extra special

**N**OW that people are emerging from the hibernation of one of the coldest winters on record, they can see all the jobs that need to be done round the garden.

Why not plan a new patio area or update old fencing? Have you thought of having a decking area? Perhaps you have thought of having a stone built barbecue!

Now is the time to have a check round your property and see what needs to be repaired or improved.

It is time to plan ahead and make your garden look special for the summer.



## Help for those household spring improvements

**A**T this time of the year, householders feel the urge to spring clean – but if you are a full time worker time is of the essence.

Why not call in a domestic cleaning company to do your spring clean and give yourself time to relax!

Sometimes there are jobs around the house that a person might not be able to do because they don't have the necessary knowledge, are elderly, have a disability or simply don't have the time.

In these circumstances, remember there are local handymen who can provide the help you need.

The spring season is a popular time to build a

conservatory because it can be ready in time for summer in the same year. The householder gets a light, bright space where, if the sun shines, even if it is windy outside, it remains nice and warm with views of the garden.

And then when winter comes, it serves as an extra room away from the noise of the television and lounge.

Spring is also a prime time for freshening up house interiors and decorating. Perhaps you have skirting boards that look drab or a door frame that needs a fresh coat of paint.

Remember that with services to your door someone who can do these tasks is just a telephone call away!

## CLEANING SERVICES



## CARPET & HOUSE CLEANING

### ABC CARPET CLEANING

- Residential
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- Domestic House Cleaning
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**Extensive Portfolio**  
• Porches • Garages • Conservatories  
**Excellent rates on stonework**  
Call Chris for advice on  
**01446 722645 or 07817 885271**

## Litter-free? Not any more..!

WITH reference to David T Jones's letter in last week's GEM about the litter-free lanes around the Vale, I have to agree that the litter picking teams had done a very good job of removing the litter from along the road verges around Llantwit Major.

So I was very dismayed today, when driving between Llantwit and Cowbridge, to see a huge amount of paper strewn all along the verge just past the DG Weaver garage.

There was so much

litter, in such a short stretch of verge, it was obvious someone had been out and dumped it all and the breeze had done the rest.

It's so maddening to see things like that especially as the litter picking teams had only covered that stretch of road just a few short weeks ago.

Now it looks as bad, if not worse, than ever.

It would be a really sorry state of affairs if we all littered in that way.

It just annoys me that some people don't seem to consider, or just don't care about, the consequences of their littering actions.

Carolyn Veal-Shaw, Llantwit Major.

## The biggest cut of all?

OUR Vale MP Alun Cairns rightly says that cuts in government expenditure must be made (The GEM, March 17) but the biggest possible cut of all receives no mention whatsoever.

I refer to the replacement of our 'ageing' nuclear submarine fleet.

We are now on Twitter - follow us

@gem-news

[www.facebook.com/gemnews](http://www.facebook.com/gemnews)

## THE COLUMN YOU WRITE

# Readers' Letters

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. Letters and emails MUST include full address and a contact telephone number. An email address alone is not sufficient. We will (in certain circumstances), protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.

## Leaflet was NOT from Labour

WE wish to make it clear that we did NOT send out a leaflet to tenants about the ballot that is being held to decide if council homes are transferred, or whether the tenancies remain with the council.

We are aware that many tenants may have already voted, but as the ballot papers do not have to reach the Electoral Reform Service until April 5, we wish to make it clear that the leaflet was not sanctioned by us, nor did we agree that a previous letter from the Labour councillors could be reproduced in that leaflet.

## No cuts to our public services!

IN last week's GEM, Alun Cairns MP challenged readers who opposed the UK Coalition's cuts programme to say what they would cut instead.

The simple answer to Mr Cairns is NOTH-ING! There is absolutely no need to cut any service to the public or any public service.

The solution is to collect the £123 billion of evaded, avoided and uncollected tax. We can

start with certain banks, mobile phone companies and High Street clothing stores.

However, this might be a step too far for the 23 millionaires in the Coalition cabinet!

Working people did not cause the recession and should not have to pay for it. On March 26, thousands of people from Wales and the UK will march in London to speak out against the unfair spending cuts. Join us!

Andrew Woodman, Barry.

Our intention was simply to ask tenants to think very carefully before they voted, but we also made it clear that no matter what the outcome your Labour councillors would still be available should you need us to assist with any housing problems – whether or not the council retains ownership of your home or whether it is transferred to the Heritage Homes Housing Association.

However, we do believe that every tenant entitled to vote in this important ballot should do so, and make sure that their choice is taken into account.

Once again, if you believed that the information leaflet came from the Labour councillors, we are sorry but we had no control over its distribution or its content.

Bronwen Brooks, (for Members of the Vale Labour group)

## When the town had five cinemas!

AM pleased that the 'saving the Theatre Royal' campaign is still continuing in Barry and it is unbelievable that the authorities could not find the necessary funding to save it.

Yet £5 million was found for a cinema in Swansea and £4.2 million for a cinema plus theatre in Wrexham! Barry used to have, when I was young, five picture-houses – Romilly Hall, Theatre Royal, Tivoli, Vince Palace (Thompson Street), and the Regal in Cadotown.

I remember walking home through the black-out from the Theatre Royal after watching a double-bill of *Dracula* and *Frankenstein*!

Surely no town with the population that Barry has should be left without even one cinema!

Mrs D E Coombes Herridge, Barry.

Fairtrade. There a Chilean farmer spoke of his thanks to the people of Wales.

Wales was officially the first Fairtrade Nation in the world, with a huge amount of Fairtrade products now available in shops across the Vale.

Choosing to buy a Fairtrade product means you are paying for a fair deal for some of the poorest farmers and workers in the world.

Even in these challenging times we need a Welsh government that is strong and ambitious.

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Chris Franks (Assembly Member, South Wales Central)

## Litter problem and schools

YOUR correspondent makes a good point about the litter around schools (GEM letters, March 17).

It is no coincidence that this increases during term time and the problem is endemic. The amount of rubbish scattered around one Barry school is appalling.

Protests to headteachers, councillors and community officers are usually treated with indifference. (Name and address supplied)

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# BRIDGEND INDUSTRIAL ESTATE

Business update...  
Professionals - Just a stone's throw away!

## 'RICH DIVERSITY OF BUSINESS'

### Industrial estate is the beating heart of Bridgend's economy

To get an idea of the diversity of business in the Bridgend area, the best way is simply to drive around the Bridgend Industrial Estate.

It takes quite some time, as the long, wide roads that intersect the

estate stretch out into the far distance.

The estate, which was created from part of the massive Royal Ordnance Factory (ROF) that played a vital role in the war effort in 1939-1945, is simply so much bigger than any passer-by could imagine.

It is, it almost goes without saying, a

major employer in the county borough, and as such makes a huge contribution to the economic life of the borough. It benefits from its proximity to the M4, and it means that customers can get to the estate quickly without any of the traffic hassle involved in getting to shops in some towns and cities.

The banking sector certainly recognises its importance, with several branches of the big high street chains on site in the administrative area.

The range of services and outlets that

trade on the estate is staggering, with local entrepreneurs plying their trade next door to national chains or major manufacturing companies.

High-tech companies are working at the outer edges of research and development, while more 'bread and butter' services are also in demand.

The facts and figures about the estate are impressive. In total, the estate extends to an estimated three million square feet of commercial space on approximately 300 acres. There is traditional factory



[www.bridgendindustrialestate.com](http://www.bridgendindustrialestate.com)

space, distribution centres, and high quality office developments.

And there is also a strong retail presence on the estate, with many customers now well aware that the Bridgend Industrial Estate has some of the keenest retail operations around.

One 'new kid on the block' is Town and Country, still trading in the town centre, but now investing in space on the industrial estate to expand its business.

The owner, Paul Ezzard, told The GEM: "After 28 years in Bridgend, we opened a new operation here on the estate this month.

"Our new bedroom furniture showroom gives us a chance to let people see the range of stock we have available - more than 1,000 fitted bedrooms!"

He added: "We have great confidence in the Bridgend Industrial Estate and it is a great place to launch a new venture!"

Much more settled on the estate is the

FRF car dealership - a landmark operation that benefits from being highly visible as motorists travel along the main road.

The site has always been strongly associated with Vauxhall, and FRF are the latest company to offer that company's vehicles to local motorists.

However, there have been changes, as FRF's new car sales manager, Mark Jones,

explained: "In the last 12 months, we have become dealers for Chevrolet and Mazda - as well as Vauxhall."

Taking on extra dealerships is a sign that trading conditions are on the up, and the company is taking advantage of the wide catchment area of the estate.

Mark added: "We have regular customers who travel from the Vale or from Maesteg,

because the road links are good."

The estate is so large that a number of different agents handle the properties, and Cooke & Arkwright look after the Central Park section.

For many outlets on the estate, the barrier between 'trade' and 'real' customers is a thing of the past.

(CONTINUED  
ON PAGE 19)

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# BRIDGEND INDUSTRIAL ESTATE

## Business update...

### Professionals - Just a stone's throw away!

## Good road links give estate a flying start in the business race



**ABOVE and LEFT:**  
The estate offers plenty of modern buildings that are extremely well equipped and able to meet the needs of today's businesses.

(CONTINUED  
FROM PAGE 18)

John Jones of Cooke & Arkwright recently let a 4,000 sq ft unit to a new arrival, @turf garden store.

He said: "The new unit gives @turf the prominence to attract new business, as well as servicing existing clients.

"We are continuing to sell and let units in a difficult market and only four units now remain at Central Park."

The managing director of @turf is David Pearce, who has relocated from Pencoed. He said: "The move to Central Park has put us in a good location, with easy access to the M4."

Huw Davies, of Solar Sunshades, has seen the business expand over his 12 years on the estate, from employing 12 staff at the start, to a total of 25 now.

The transport links are important to Huw too, because he looks after customers from Pembroke Dock in west Wales, to Swindon in the east, and even Poole in the south-east!

Meanwhile, back at his Bridgend base, his showroom and good parking makes it easy

for customers to see what he is offering.

At Dougfield Plumbers' Supplies Ltd, branch manager Gareth Richards also felt that the estate had definitely been a good place to trade from.

He said: "We have been here for 14 years

and have been able to take advantage of the good road links to develop the business.

"We now serve more than one market with a bathroom showroom, and a heating supplies area, and offer a warm welcome to trade and retail customers alike."



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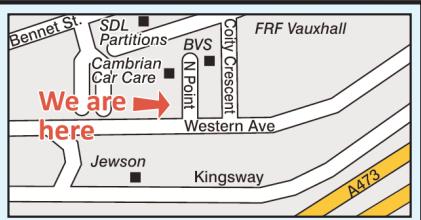


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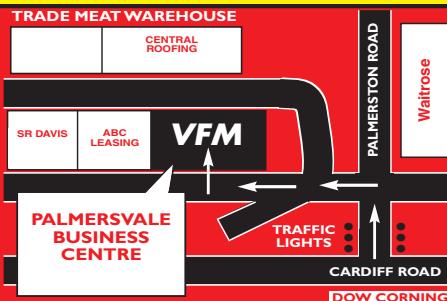
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# LOOKING INTO TIMES PAST IN PORTHCAWL THROUGH HOLIDAY-MAKERS' MEMORIES!

THE photographs on these two pages come from one woman's remarkable collection of postcards (see facing page for details).

The images show the way that visitors to the town chose to remember Porthcawl, and also how photographers kept looking for a new view of the town (as in the aerial view below).



*The harbour is on the right, with Salt Lake on the left, although the exact date is unclear.*



*ABOVE and BELOW: Coney Beach, looking decidedly rocky!*



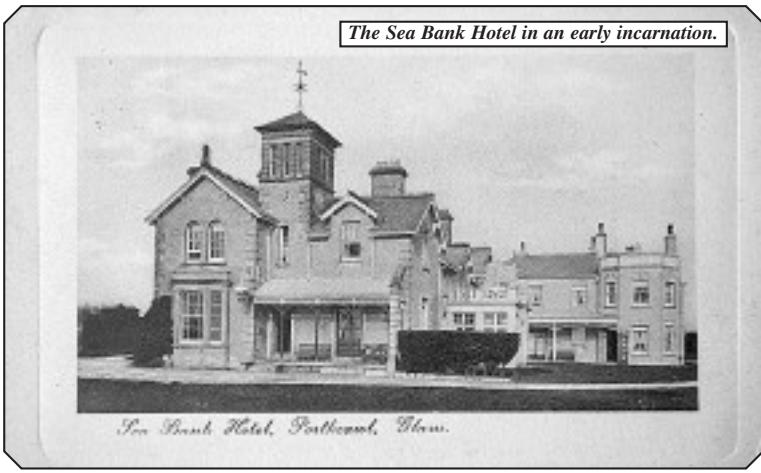
*ABOVE: A leafy scene in Newton village.*



*ABOVE: Rocks at Sker Bay.*



*ABOVE: This particular Porthcawl bay is not often featured on postcards!*



*The Sea Bank Hotel in an early incarnation.*

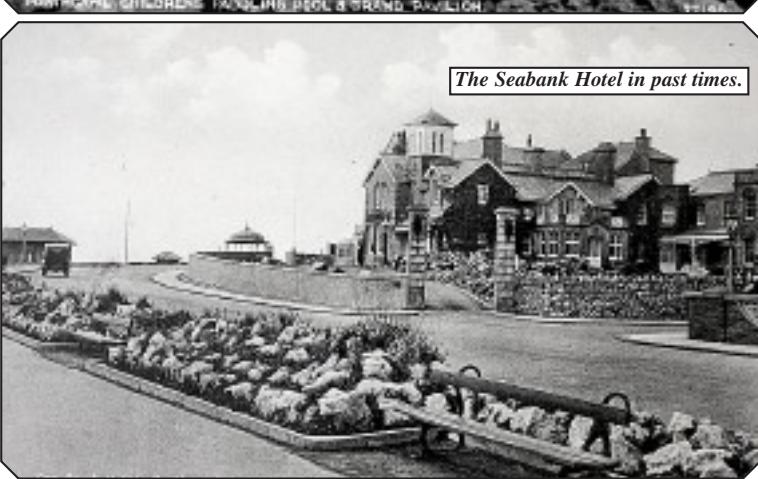
*Sea Bank Hotel, Porthcawl. Below.*

# POSTCARDS THAT TELL A STORY ABOUT PORTHCAWL'S DAYS AS A SEASIDE RESORT

THE postcards featured on this page are from a remarkable collection built up by Mrs Muriel Parkes.

None of her postcards were bought in Porthcawl. She found them all on her travels, always stopping off in second hand shops and collectors' fayres and buying anything that had been sent from the town.

Here at The GEM, we are unsure whether the postcard (right) was meant to imply that refined ladies came to Porthcawl looking for a husband!



## COWBRIDGE COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL SPORTS REPORT

# School keeps its place at the badminton top table



Under-13 girls won the team trophy.



Under-13 boys.



Welsh schools bronze medal.



Welsh schools runners-up.



Welsh schools runners-up.

**BADMINTON**

THE Welsh Schools Top School badminton tournament was held at the Flash Leisure Centre, Welshpool, in Powys.

Both boys and girls teams had qualified for these finals by winning the South Wales Championships in October 2010.

The girls were drawn in a pool of three with Brynhyfryd from north Wales and Y Panu from Talbot Green. The team of four play singles at number 1 seed and number 2 seed, and doubles with number 3 or 4 seed plus number 1 seed and number 3 or 4 seed plus number 2 seed. This means that the two strongest players do not play doubles together.

v **Brynhyfryd**

Jessica Oliver won singles 21-7; Jordan Carpenter won singles 21-3; Lois Palmer and Nia Patal won doubles 21-7; Jessica and Lois won doubles 21-4; Jordan and Nia won doubles 21-11. An excellent 5-0 win in their first match.

v **Y Pant**

Jessica lost 11-21; Jordan won 21-11; Lois and Nia won 21-7; Jessica and Lois lost 9-21; Jordan and Nia won 21-19. This was a close match, winning 3-2 and put the team into the final versus the winner of the other group of three.

In the final against Castell Alun School, Mold in north Wales, the girls were up against three girls in the Welsh Squad and lost 4-1 with all matches in double figures:

Jessica lost 21-13; Jordan lost 21-14; Lois and Nia lost 21-18; Jessica and Lois lost 21-10; Jordan and Nia won 21-18.

Overall, the girls will be proud of becoming the second-best school in Wales in their first attempt.

In the boys competition, one school did not turn up, St Albans from Pontypridd, so the format changed to one group of five, with everybody playing each other. The boys play in the same format as the girls.

v **Alun School, Mold**

Rhys Mallows won singles 21-15; Will Painter won singles 21-16; James Hendy and Matthew Goodlad won doubles 21-10; Rhys Mallows and James Hendy lost doubles 17-21; Will Painter and Matthew Goodlad won doubles 21-18.

Cowbridge therefore won 4-1.

v **Cardiff High School**

Rhys lost 9-21; Will won 21-7; James and Matthew lost 8-21; Rhys and James won 21-18; Will and Matthew lost 20-21; Cowbridge therefore lost 3-2.

v **Hawarden High School**

Rhys lost 18-21; Will won 21-7; James and Matthew lost 8-21; Rhys and James won 21-18; Will and Matthew lost 20-21; Cowbridge therefore won 4-1.

v **Brynhyfryd**

Rhys lost 18-21; Will won 21-11; James and Matthew lost 19-21; Rhys and James lost 16-21; Will and Matthew won 21-16; Cowbridge therefore lost 3-2.

The team finished third overall in bronze medal position. Team captain Rhys Mallows was disappointed as they had a great opportunity to win the tournament but lost two crucial games by one and two points respectively.

Well done to both teams for continuing to put the name of Cowbridge Comprehensive School on the map in badminton. The school competed in the very first one in 1977, and still have the same coach!

**HOCKEY**

The year-8 hockey team played in the county preliminary tournament against

**St Cyres and Plasmawr.**

In the first game against Plasmawr it was so-so possession throughout the game, with some great attacking play by Rosa Hartman and in defence by player of the match Millie Green. With 35 seconds to go, Plasmawr scored to make the final score 1-0.

Plasmawr went on to beat St Cyres 2-0 and Cowbridge then played St Cyres with Rosa Hartman scoring two goals and Megan McNamee the third goal in the first half.

In the second half, Millie Green scored as did St Cyres, making the final score 4-1 to Cowbridge.

The team consisted of defence: Hannah Lee, Shellie May, Caitlin Jones, Sally Gambling and Millie Green, Emily Davies and Lily Morris, Megan McNamee, Hannah Lister-Sims, Brooke-Langton Cryer, Alice Tudor and attack Ellie Eddy Williams, Evie Williams, Rosa Harman and Lauri Thomas. Well done!

**FOOTBALL**

YEAR-7 played Cardiff High School in the final of the City of Cardiff and Vale Schools Bluebirds Cup on the Bear Field at Cowbridge Leisure Centre.

The game started badly for the team with two goals conceded in the first five minutes of the game. Playing with plenty of possession unfortunately did not pay dividends, as the away goalkeeper and the woodwork saved the day. While it was attacking, the team conceded another two goals before half time.

4-0 down at half time, year-7s luck in front of goal needed to change. This happened early on with two goals from Jay Mann, but again a slip at the back let in two goals. With a goal from Daniel Bear, at least the team won the second half.

Playing catch-up is difficult, as the boys found out, but all players gave their best and now look forward to a friendly against year-8 on the astroturf.

**GYMNASISTICS**

THE Welsh Schools Floor and Vault Championships were held at the Welsh Institute of Sport at Sophia Gardens in Cardiff, where the school entered five teams.

The under-19 girls team finished fifth overall, competing against many Welsh squad and British squad members. Natasha Johnston was top scorer with 16.2.

The under-19 boys team finished in bronze medal position behind a very strong Barry Comprehensive School team. Jason Sami, year-10, was top scorer on the vault with 8.8.

The under-19 mixed team finished in silver medal position behind an excellent Caldicot School of Gwent. The team suffered an injury to Caitlin Allin in warm up. Lili Evans was top scorer with 9.3 in the vault.

The under-13 boys team finished in silver medal position to Whitchurch Comprehensive School by less than a full mark. Outstanding for Cowbridge was Tom Lucas with an overall mark for floor and vault of 17.0.

The under-13 girls team came out top of the class on the day to be crowned Welsh Schools Floor and Vault Champions.

This was the first time that the school team at this age group had won the Welsh Championships.

The girls will now go on to represent Wales as a region against all the home nations in Stoke on Trent on May 7 and 8.

Mia Sexton, returning from injury, led the girls home with a top combined score of 17.9.

**Individual Scores**

Under-19 Girls	Floor	Vault	Total
Kim Dreyer	6.7	8.8	15.5
Anabel Smith	7.1	8.5	15.6
Emmy Bevan	6.3	8.6	14.9
Natasha Johnson	7.4	8.8	16.2
Natasha Sahonte	6.1	9.1	15.2

Under-19 Boys	Floor	Vault	Total
Danny Price	7.8	8.7	16.5
Liam Martin	6.6	Injured	/
Kester Irwin	6.4	8.6	15.0
Jack Scott-Coombe	6.8	8.6	15.0
Jason Sami	8.0	8.8	16.8

Under-19 Mixed	Floor	Vault	Total
Dylan Layzell	8.0	9.2	17.2
Tobias Swann	7.5	8.9	16.4
Rebecca Thomas	8.0	8.8	16.8
Lili Evans	8.1	9.3	17.4
Caitlin Irwin	Injured	Injured	/

Under-13 Boys	Floor	Vault	Total
Tom Lucas	8.0	9.2	17.2
Tom Trotman	7.2	8.8	16.8
Hywel Williams	7.0	8.2	15.2
Charlie Martin	7.1	8.4	15.5
Cai Irwin	7.6	8.4	16.0

Under-13 Girls	Floor	Vault	Total
Jasmine Stephens	8.3	8.8	17.1
Jordan Stephens	8.3	8.3	16.6
Mia Sexton	8.8	9.1	17.9
Bridgette Walters	8.6	8.5	17.1
Ellie Medicott	7.0	/	/
Stephanie Sanders	/	8.3	/

**Inter-County Event**

THE Welsh Schools Inter County Tumble and Vault Championships were held at the Welsh Institute of Sport at Sophia Gardens in Cardiff.

Four pupils represented the school and county at these Welsh Championships and helped the county to retain the overall cup when they tied with South East Wales.

Under-13 girls: Jasmine Stevens (year-7), and her team won the team trophy.

Under-13 boys: Tom Trotman (year-8), was an outstanding all rounder who helped the county to bronze medal position.

Under-19 girls: Lili Evans (year-9), and her team won the team trophy.

Under-19 boys: Dylan Layzell (year-13), in his final year representing the county, finished with a team silver. Dylan has been a great servant to the school and county teams over many years. Thank you to him for his support and loyalty.

**Individual Scores**

	Floor	Floor	Floor	Vault	Vault
	1	2	3	1	2
Lili Evans	8.8	3.2	9.1	9.4	9.6
Dylan Layzell	6.5	8.6	7.7	9.4	9.3
Tom Trotman	8.3	7.4	8.0	8.7	9.3
Jasmine Stephens	8.2	8.7	8.6	9.4	9.2

## Dinas Powys FC news round up

**Girls under-12s** team. Also, best of luck in their quarter-final tie on March 27, at Bryn Y Don against Valleys United in the SWGL cup.

**Girls under-14s** CONGRATULATIONS to Ella Hatherill, Chloe Jones and Emily Hill for making the Cardiff and Vale under-14 squad.

Well done also to Kelsey Murray and Ellie Wenger for being put on standby for possible selection.

Congratulations to the under-14s for beating Troedyrhw 2-0.

A fine run of four games unbeaten now puts them 12th in the league, a fine achievement after a very difficult start in what is their first season on full size pitches.

MW

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# Local choir to appear at Tenovus concert in Llandaff Cathedral

THE South Wales Male Choir, which draws many of its members from Cowbridge, Llanwit Major, Barry and Penarth, will be singing at the Tenovus Spring Concert in Llandaff Cathedral on Thursday, April 14, at 7.30pm.

The concert will also feature The Tenovus Sing For Life Choir, a remarkable group of people who have been affected by cancer.

The South Wales Male Choir will be conducted by musical director Elaine Robins, the piano accompanist will be Siân Davies and the organist Terry Gilmore-James.

Choir member Terry Rooney from Llanwit Major told The GEM:

## Cowbridge bridge clubs round-up

THE latest results are as follows:

Vale of Glamorgan Bridge Club, Monday, March 14: First, Joan Jenkins and Jane Brook 61.25 per cent; second, Mary Moore and John Beard, 57.19; third, Anne Hughes and John Edwards, 55.94; fourth, John Henson and Geoff Tinkler, 55.94; fifth, Teri Pollard and Sara Bartlett, 54.06; sixth, Ray Smith and Gwynne Maddox, 53.13.

Adrian Thomas, the president of the Welsh Bridge Union and member of the 2011 Welsh team who won the 'Camrose' Cup against

"There are 110 members in the choir, many from the Vale, some from Cardiff and Gwent – and those in exile in Bristol, Oxford and Wantage.

"The choir was formed in 1982 and its first president was Lord George Thomas of Tonypandy.

"For a payment of £100, we will provide five top price tickets, which are £12 each, and with the extra donation your business details will be printed prominently in the concert programme."

The concert is to support one of Wales' great causes and to purchase tickets, people should

contact: the choir secretary, John Rees Davies, on 01446 746387; Terry Rooney on 01446 792417.

Tickets are also available at Chris Williams Opticians, Boerton Road, and on the door at Llandaff Cathedral.

## Council homes transfer: 'TENANTS CONSULTED'

**I MUST correct the letter from Coun Berlin in your letters page last week. Every secure tenant of the Vale Council has received a formal consultation document, which contains all the details of what would happen to their homes and services if the transfer goes ahead.**

Very importantly, it

also gives all the details of what would happen if the homes stay with the council. The comparison clearly states that the council would not have the resources available to bring homes up to the full Welsh Housing Quality Standard, as required by the Welsh Assembly Government.

Also, the council would not have the resources to invest in the estates in Gibbonsdown and Buttrills that suffer from crime and anti-social behaviour and need to be remodelled to help solve these problems.

Copies of both the council's and Heritage Coast Homes' business plans have been available for scrutiny by all Vale councillors and have been laid out side-by-side in cabinet papers and full council agendas.

Obviously some councillors are not reading these documents.

The promises made in the council's formal consultation document would be made legally binding on Heritage Coast Homes if the transfer goes ahead. Four tenants, four

council nominees and four independent people with relevant skills and experience sit on the shadow board of Heritage Coast Homes and would be committed to delivering the promises made in the formal consultation document.

Heritage Coast Homes would be regulated by the Welsh Assembly Government.

Every piece of literature produced by the Vale Council as part of its formal consultation with tenants on the proposed transfer to Heritage Coast Homes has been checked by specialist lawyers, the independent tenant advisor open communities and by the Welsh Assembly Government to ensure it is accurate and factual.

I would urge all our tenants to read the Formal Consultation Document, ask any questions they may have and make their own minds up about the proposal and to make sure they use their vote.

Coun Paul Church (Cabinet member for housing and community safety)

## Beating the bounds around Llanblethian, 55 years ago



In a recent issue of The GEM, Betty Alden of the Cowbridge History Society revealed plans for an exhibition, scheduled for July, which will focus on Cowbridge in the 1960s, 70s and 80s.

She also asked residents if they had any suitable photographs or memorabilia.

Betty dropped this fascinating photograph into The GEM office and said: "We have been loaned a number of photographs by Mrs Remy Lloyd Jones and this one, taken in the 1950s, shows the 'Beating the Bounds' ceremony on Rogation Sunday in Llanblethian. We wonder if anyone recognises the children." Betty added that the society welcomes any further items.

She can be contacted on 01446 773373.

## Older People's Forum meets Crossroads Carers group

RENE GANNON, vice-chair of the Older People's Forum, and Winnie Davies, an executive member, were invited to give a presentation at a meeting of the Penarth Crossroads Carers Group to explain how the 'Strategy for Older People' worked, and how the carers group could become part of the forum.

Crossroads scheme in the Vale was set up in 1987 by Clair Mallia and Dr Mike Robinson, a Dinas Powys GP, who had recognised a lack of dementia service in this area.

The scheme employs a team of 40 care workers who provide care in the home, take clients out socially, run the day centres at Brynethin and Gardenhurst, and facilitate social groups in Barry and the rural Western Vale.



Rene Gannon and Winnie Davies with Carers from Crossroad Care in the Vale.

In providing these services, they aim to support family carers and give them a break from their caring role.

WD

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## BRYNCETHIN MINI AND JUNIORS ROUND-UP

# Under-8s team are involved in two thrilling local encounters

**UNDER-8s**

**BRYNCETHIN** travelled away to face tricky games against Bridgend Athletic and Porthcawl.

With all three teams were sporting good size squads we were in for some entertaining games. **Bryncethin 6 Porthcawl 2**

Porthcawl won the toss and were on the attack straightaway. A solid defensive display by Bryncethin meant they were able to hold firm and exert enough pressure to turn possession over.

A quick tap gave Bryncethin the advantage and they were able to score in the corner.

Porthcawl then came back into the game and score themselves.

Bryncethin then opened up a lead which

they were never to lose and they went on to finish the game 6-2 winners.

Try scorers: Rhys Williams (3), Miles Blakeman, Rhys Cawley and Jake Whitefield.

**Bridgend Athletic 6 Bryncethin 6**

Game two started with Bridgend opening the scoring and they quickly went over again.

Bryncethin were still on the back foot when they were able to break away and score. Following a quick reshuffle, Bryncethin started to gain control of the game and with the final whistle not far away, Bryncethin scored to bring the game level.

Great spirit was shown by both sides, but there was to be no winner and the game ended in a draw 6-6.

Try scorers: Rhys Cawley (2), Ifan Hunnam

(2) and Rhys Williams (2).

Man of the match: Morgan Hughes for his great tagging and forward play - well done Morgan.

**Match day squad: Jake Whitefield (captain game 1), Thomas Bassett (captain game 2), Cameron Alston, Shaun Batchelor, Miles Blakeman, Rhys Cawley, Mike Gillette, Morgan Hughes, Ifan Hunnam, Will Laverick, Jac Jervis, Cory Ryall and Rhys Williams.**

**UNDER-10s**

**TWO games for the under-10s as both Porthcawl and Bryncethin visited Bridgend Athletic.**

**Bridgend Athletic 49 Bryncethin 7**

For once, Bryncethin started brightly and were rewarded when they opened the scoring through Scott Ryall with the conversion from Jack Thomas.

This only served to provoke the Athletic into action, who responded to score five tries in the first half to take a commanding lead.

The second half saw the hosts score three unanswered tries. The Bryncethin players kept going until the end and played with the desire we have come to expect from them.

The coaching staff hope that the boys will take notice of how well drilled their opponents were and the importance of making the most of training sessions.

Well done to the Athletic players on a polished performance.

Try scorer: Scott Ryall.

**Porthcawl 21 Bryncethin 38**

After a short break and some stern words, the Bryncethin boys were sent out against

Porthcawl to try and get some rhythm into their play.

Two early tries from Scott Ryall and Tobias Hunt, and a conversion from Jack Thomas, were to set them on their way.

Scott crossed for his second of the match with Josh Napper adding the conversion.

The second half was a tighter affair with Porthcawl giving their all.

There were further Bryncethin tries for Aaron Thomas, Keiran Dixon and Daniel Osarigie, with conversions for Lewis Francis and Josh Napper.

Porthcawl crossed for three converted tries to finish the game at 38-21.

Try scorers: Scott Ryall (2), Keiran Dixon, Daniel Osarigie, Aaron Thomas and Tobias Hunt.

Man of the day: Joshua Thomas, who didn't take a backwards step during either game in attack and defence.

**Match day squad: Aaron Thomas (captain game 1), Daniel Osarigie (captain game 2), Keiran Dixon, Luke Board, Scott Ryall, Josh Napper, Jack Thomas, Finlay Mullens, Morgan Stevens, Ethan Hopkins, Joshua Thomas, Lewis Francis, Thomas Jones and Tobias Hunt.**

**UNDER-12S**

**Llantwit Major 34 Bryncethin 17**

**BRYNCETHIN** travelled up to Llantwit Major and Bryn kicked off first, with Jack Ladler scoring the first try and Ieuan Davies converting.

The boys continued to play well, with Jack Ladler scoring again. The try was again converted by Ieuan Davies.

Llantwit came back with two excellent tries, making the score at half-

time 14-17.

As the second half started, Llantwit continued with their fast paced game, but Sam Harding, with his ferocious tackling, gave them a run for their money.

There were plenty of spirited displays from the Bryncethin lads with Christian Jones showing great determination and speed. Conor Ford was excellent in defence to stop a certain try.

On the day, it was a good game by all, although Llantwit had more points on the board.

Man of the match: Christian Jones.

**Match day squad: Sam Harding (captain), Ieuan Davies, Aaron McTye, Liam Morgan, Leon Sylvester, Carwyn Smith, Conor Ford, Adam John, Jacob Walters, Corey Rogers, Henry Clark, Nicholas Morgan, Morgan Howells, Christian Jones, Josh Peters, Jack Ladler and Corey Booth.**

**RE**

# Bridgend Athletic grab hard-fought, last-minute win

**Lock Jamie Docherty is lifted high to pressurise the Llangennech lineout.**

**PHOTO BY ADRIAN BURT**



**(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 44)**

Although Llangennech managed to win the ball back, they were put under pressure by fierce tackling by flankers Lloyd Evans and stand-in captain Matthew Hillman.

Eventually, the visitors opted to kick out of defence but the ball ricocheted into Lewis' hands and he quickly transferred the ball to Morris, who set Olds on another elusive run and once again Llangennech infringed. Lewis stepped up to extend the lead to 10 points.

Once again, Llangennech surged into Athletic territory but again gritty defence, ably fronted by lock Gruff Davies, forced them back and a long range penalty fell just short. At the next lineout, Llangennech's overthrow was pounced on by Evans who quickly passed on the ball which reached Pemberton in space.

He ran strongly before sliding a kick through. The desperate clearance fell straight into Evans' hands and he moved it to Morris whose long pass reached Olds, who rounded the defending forward for a try wide.

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out. This was the young three-quarter's third in as many games. Lewis' conversion hit the post.

Clearly, the home team were delighted to be 15 points up but, as Evans left the field, having aggravated an injury sustained in the previous match, to be replaced by Matthew Hillman.

Eventually, the visitors opted to kick out of defence but the ball ricocheted into Lewis' hands and he quickly transferred the ball to Morris, who set Olds on another elusive run and once again Llangennech infringed. Lewis stepped up to extend the lead to 10 points.

Once again, Llangennech surged into Athletic territory but again gritty defence, ably fronted by lock Gruff Davies, forced them back and a long range penalty fell just short. At the next lineout, Llangennech's overthrow was pounced on by Evans who quickly passed on the ball which reached Pemberton in space.

He ran strongly before sliding a kick through. The desperate clearance fell straight into Evans' hands and he moved it to Morris whose long pass reached Olds, who rounded the defending forward for a try wide.

Llangennech were now winning all the small battles and territorially they were in com-

mand. Nevertheless, the Athletic players were giving their all to repel the men in black and red.

The occasional break-out relieved some pressure but it was mainly backs to the wall stuff. When the Athletic turned over Llangennech ball and kicked out of defence, Pemberton and Rob Coles were quick to chase but the support was slow to arrive. This allowed full-back Vaughan to make good ground into home territory before linking with his support players, and left wing Lane nipped over for a good try that Craig Evans again converted well.

Time was running out and despite making changes, the Athletic's desperate attempts to regain the lead were being thwarted by the visitors and it looked as though their fine run of results was about to end.

As time ran out, Rob Coles made a strong run which was carried on by Rhys Jones and Stuart Morris before Coles was involved again. He transferred to Olds before receiving the return pass. When he was confronted by the full-back, he found Simon Mustoe on his shoulder.

The burly hooker shook off a grabbing hand and raced away 30 metres to score under the posts with an Ashton-esque swallow dive. Up stepped Lewis to chip over the conversion that gave the Athletic a breathless victory as the final whistle went.

This victory takes the Athletic within two points of third-placed Bonymaen, although they remain in sixth for now. Of their remaining six fixtures, four are at home and the Athletic will be looking to climb the table.

The next league match is at Bonymaen on April 2, followed by successive home fixtures against Corus, Bridgend and Whitland, before travelling to Waunarlwydd on April 30. There is also still one home match to be arranged, vs Bonymaen in April.

**MARK DAVIES**

## Maesteg gears up for the new cricket season

Association on their tour to South Africa in 2012.

Dean Cox will continue as Second XI captain and will help to develop the younger players in their quest to a higher level. The Third XI have been re-established following a break of six seasons and will mix the more 'senior' players with the club's talented youth players, the captain being club stalwart Richard Howells.

2011 will see Maesteg Cricket Club celebrate its 165th anniversary (established in 1846, one of Wales' longest established cricket clubs).

Ironically, the club will also be celebrating a golden jubilee as it is 50 years since the club won its first and only Dan Radcliffe Cup - Division One of the South Wales and Monmouthshire Cricket League.

To commemorate these milestones, the club is to host a post-season gala dinner - plans are already well underway.

The club are also embarking on a post-season tour to Worcester where they will be playing two matches at junior and senior level against Broadway CC on September 10 and Barnards Green CC on September 11. The club is indebted to John Richards, who has arranged the tour within a fortnight of being co-opted onto the club's

## Athletic bounce back after slip-up

**STINGING** from criticism of an inept display in drawing at Felinfoel, the Athletic turned in their best performance of the season to defeat UWIC by 32 points to 15 at the South Wales Police Ground last week.

They crossed for four tries picking up a bonus point on the way. The club are unbeaten in their last six league games and have picked up 23 points in this period, including wins against second and third placed Narbeth and Corus. UWIC are now only two points ahead of the Athletic in fifth place.

A pleasing feature of a highly entertaining match was that Athletic matched the tempo of the super fit students, having surrendered a 27-7 lead when UWIC ran them ragged in the final 10 minutes last September, to end up the wrong side of a 33-27 result.

This is a tribute to the coaching team of Paul Yardley, John Apsee, David Williams and conditioning coach Rob Green.

UWIC opened the scoring in the first minute, with Gareth Walters kicking a penalty following hands in a ruck. Athletic outside half Steven Lewis then responded in kind following offside by the UWIC midfield.

UWIC were reduced to 14 men with a yellow card for a high tackle on half way. Lewis converted, and quickly added a second penalty to put the Athletic 20-10 ahead.

Next, leading Athletic try scorer Lloyd Pemberton took a pass on half way and sliced clean through to cross for his eighth try of the season.

The Athletic had spent the previous training session concentrating on scrummaging. This paid off handsomely on the night, with props Matthew Norman and Wayne Fookes and hooker Simon Mustoe starting to dominate the scrums.

From a five-metre scrum they had UWIC on the back foot, allowing scrum half Tom Davies to pick up and dive over for the bonus point try. Lewis converted to put the home side 32-10 ahead.

To their credit, UWIC never gave up and were moving the ball from everywhere, but the Athletic defence was generally up to the defensive task of keeping them at bay. The visitors were rewarded for their enterprise when No 8 Ed Bowden crossed in the corner to make the final score 32-15.

The Athletic brought on an entire back row substitution with flankers Lee Sims, Stuart Nation and No 8 Griff Davies making his seasonal debut. Flanker Lloyd Evans continued his rich run of form and was the Athletic man of the match.

**ADRIAN BURT**

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Clive

Peacefully at the Princess of Wales Hospital Bridgend on March 15th 2011, Clive, much loved and cherished elder son of the late Arthur and Margaret. Dearly loved brother of Rob.

A pleasure to be with - a great privilege to know.

Resting at W.A. Brown & Son, College Street, Llantwit Major until the funeral service in St Illtud's Church on Monday 28th March at 2.15 p.m. followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium at 3.45 p.m. Family flowers only, but donations may be made to the Alzheimers Disease Society c/o the Funeral Director (cheques only).

Bond  
Roger

Peacefully on March 16 at Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, Roger of Llantwit Major.

Beloved husband of the late Avril, dearly loved father of Philip and Simon, father-in-law of Eunice and Sue, much loved grandfather of Nathan.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Tonmon. Funeral Tuesday March 29, service and cremation 3.45pm at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend.

Family flowers only may be sent to the Funeral Home, donations in lieu if desired to Cancer Research UK c/o J. James, 11 Tonmon Road, Rhoose, CF62 5DZ.

JONES  
Muriel Elsie

Carol, Alun, Stuart and their families would like to thank all family, friends and neighbours for their support during Mum's illness, cards and messages of sympathy and generous charitable donations.

Thank you also to all who attended the service for Mum, with special thanks to Barry Male Voice Choir for their musical contribution, Maureen Tearle for her uplifting words and Adams Funeral Home for their dignified and considerate services.

The family would also like to thank all staff who cared for her so wonderfully at Velindre Hospital as an outpatient and her period of time on the ASU Ward. Our thanks also go to the staff at Holme Tower Hospice for their dedicated care and support during this difficult time.

## Public Notices

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL  
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PROCEDURE) ORDER 1995CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG  
GORCHYMYN CYNLLUNIO GWLAD A THREF  
(TREFN DATBLYGIAD CYFFREDINOL) 1995

NOTICE is hereby given that application has been made to the Council for planning permission for the undermentioned developments:

HYBSY SIR trwy hyn i geisiodau gael eu gwneud i'r Cyngor am ganiatâd cynllunio ar gyfer y datblygiadau canlynol:

Application(s) that may be of General Public Interest  
Ceisiodau a allai fod o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol i'r Cyhoedd

Application No:/  
Rhif y cais:  
Proposal:/Cynnig:  
Location:/Lleoliad:

2011/00155/FUL  
Change of use from grazing land to cricket ground and associated car parking facilities.  
Glebefields, Sully

Full details (including plans) may be inspected during normal working hours for a period of 21 days in the offices of the Head of Planning and Transportation at the address given below, or via the Council's Online Applications Register at vog.planning-register.co.uk  
Mae'r holl fanylion (gan gynnwys y cynlluniau) i'w gweld yn swyddfeydd. Pennaeth Cynllunio a Chludiant y cyngor (gwelwch y cyfeiriad ar waelod y ddudalen) yn ystod oriau arferol swyddfa, am gyfnod o 21 o ddiwrnodau. Cewch eu gweld hefyd ar Gofrest Ceisiodau Ar-lein y cyngor drwy fynd i vog.planning-register.co.uk

Dated: 17 March, 2011  
Rob Thomas  
Head of Planning and Transportation  
The Vale of Glamorgan Council,  
Dock Office,  
Barry Docks,  
Barry  
CF63 4RT

Dyddiedig: 17 Mawrth, 2011  
Rob Thomas  
Pennaeth Cynllunio a Chludiant  
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg,  
Swyddfa'r Doc,  
Dociau'r Barri,  
Y Barri  
CF63 4RT

## Anniversary

Happy 45th  
Wedding Anniversary

**MARGARET  
& SELBY DAW**  
on 26th March, 2011  
Lots of love,  
from all the family  
x x x x

## Funeral Directors

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ST DAVID'S DAY WAS  
MARKED IN STYLE!

THE usual weekly meetings of  
Barry WI took place in  
February and March.

The speaker for February talked about GI brides of Barry. The ladies found this very interesting as it brought back memories of the SRD and other places used during the war.

March has been a busy month. On March 1 (Tuesday afternoon meeting) we held a St David's Day celebration. Two stories were read and Welsh music was played, with some singing from the ladies.

The afternoon tea was Welsh cakes, bara brith and cheese scones, served with a cup of tea or coffee. This was excellent, and while the ladies were

clearing up we played Hoi Bingo. It was a very sociable afternoon.

No speaker was booked for the monthly evening meeting as we were having our St David's supper and the drama group show. As usual, there was plenty to eat, and thanks to our president June for doing all the shopping. We would like to say thank you to the ladies who helped laying out the buffet. The drama group was excellent and Marie Carter did a very good job of organising this.

Our meetings are open to any lady who would like to come along and see how WI works.

Further details from the secretary  
on 01446 410139.  
Jeanette Chilcott

## 'Urban trees' proposed

A Barry councillor is proposing that an 'urban tree scheme' should be adopted in the town and other communities in the Vale.

The idea is not only to make the local environment more pleasant for people, but to make use of extra 'services' that trees provide.

Coun Rob Curtis explained: "I believe that street or urban trees make our communities a better and more pleasant places in which to live and raise families."

"They benefit our towns and villages in a number of ways."

"They filter polluted air and absorb traffic noise. They moderate the local climate by slowing and absorbing wind and storm water. They are also critical in cooling the 'urban heat' during the summer months."

Coun Curtis also said that the presence of street trees can have a positive

effect on the incidents of asthma, skin cancer and many stress related illnesses.

He also pointed out that average house prices can be up to 18 per cent higher where property is associated with mature trees.

"Urban or street trees also provide vital nesting, shelter and food for birds and other wild animals thus helping to support bio-diversity."

"To pay for the planting and nurturing of existing and newly planted trees, the council should investigate a scheme to allow the sponsoring of them by individuals, businesses and voluntary organisations."

"People could sponsor the planting of a tree as a celebration, as a living memorial or as a 'green gift' that would help communities in the Vale."

Coun Curtis is putting forward his proposal to a council scrutiny committee.

# British Airways Maintenance team pull together in aid of Comic Relief

BRITISH Airways maintenance team in Cardiff raised money for Comic Relief, by hosting an 'aircraft pull' with its local teams at Cardiff International Airport on Red Nose Day (March 18).

Made up of British Airways staff, 12 teams, comprising 35 members each took part in the pull. Before each pull, professional sportsmen Matt Elias (400m hurdler) and David Roberts (Olympic swimmer) led the warm-up activities.

In addition to the fundraising, there were trophies for 'best dressed team', 'most sponsorship money raised' and 'fastest time', as well as a medal for every entrant.

Local schoolchildren were invited to watch the event.

Since British Airways joined forces with Comic Relief in June 2010, the airline has raised in excess of £700,000 for 'Flying Start' – the airline's charity partnership with Comic Relief, which aims to transform the lives of vulnerable and disadvantaged children in the UK and around the world.

Bill Kelly, British Airways general manager at Cardiff Maintenance Bay, said: "The response from our colleagues to support this event was exceptional."

"I'm delighted that a large number of BA teams from across south Wales joined us on the day to 'Do Something Funny for Money', and, of course, for Flying Start."

## PHOTOGRAPHS BY MIKE WILCOCK



## Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan Schools Girls' Cross-Country Championships and League

# WONDERFUL DAY FOR THE VALE GIRLS!

**AFTER years of letting city schools dominate the team awards in the Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan Schools cross country league and championships, the Vale schools at last claimed the lion's share of the titles on offer.**

The current structure of championship age groups has been in place since the late 90s, with the equivalent league structure pre-dating that.

In the dozen or so years since the championships change, Vale schools have never won more than two of the six titles available – three in both the championships and the league.

In the final league fixture and championships, held at Trellai Park on a dry day but with a chilly breeze, all that changed.

As expected, year-9 Kate Seary was in a class of her own in the opening race, cantering away from her two Vale rivals, Kate Coker (Stanwell) and Erin Hayes (Llanwit), to complete an unbeaten season and also taking the individual championship and the league points title.

Her Whitchurch team was expected to claim a league and championships title double but, on the day, the north Cardiff school fielded an unusually small team, and their chances nose-dived. Cardiff High just pipped Cowbridge by a single point to claim the championship title, with Llanwit in third spot.

In the league, Cardiff High again headed the placings, but the second place by the Cowbridge girls meant that they took the league honours.

For the third time this season, the determined running from Seren Allin (Cowbridge) saw off the challenge from Caitlin Ferri (Cardiff High) to

take the league points title and the championships.

The Stanwell front runners have been in good form this winter and emulated their boys by taking the four to score championship title from Llanishen and Howells.

In the six-to-score league competition, the Howells squad produced its best performance of the season to claim the 30 league points.

Stanwell finished fourth on the day, but the school's 85 points total was enough to see off the Llanishen challenge, with Howells pipping Cowbridge for third spot on position points.

Two races, three titles.

This was already the Vale girls' best ever day, but there was more to come.

### Vale results

Championships: Senior Girls – 4.3 km – 45 finishers – 1 Megan Osborne (Lwt) U17-1 17:14; 2 Bethan Daw (St Cyres) U20-1 17:20; 4 Fiona Bray (Cow) U17-3 18:08; 7 Lucy Tarrant (Lwt) U17-5 18:32; 9 Danielle Green (StRichGwyn) U17-7 19:25; 11 Bethan Allman (Cow) U17-8 19:43; 14 Rachel Bradshaw (Cow) U17-11 20:29; 18 Miriam Bennett (Cow) U17-14 20:43; 23 Katie Wynne (Cow) U17-19 21:11; 24 Bethan Yapp (Bro M) U17-20 21:13; 27 Liza James (Bro M) U17-22 21:32; 28 Chloe Webber (Bro M) U17-23 21:44; 30 Anthea Young (Lwt) U17-24 22:16; 31 Rebecca John (Cow) U17-25 22:18; 32 Kathryn Gardner (Bro M) U17-26 22:31; 38 Leah Kirby (Bro M) U17-30 23:59; 39 Megan Punter (Bro M) U17-31 24:10; 40 Sarah Herbert (Bro M) U17-32 24:44; 41 Chloe Phillips (Lwt) U17-33 25:25; 43 Zoe Hodgkinson (Bro M) U17-34 26:41; 45 Kirby Redrup (Bro M) U17-36 30:07.

Teams: 1 Cowbridge 47; 4 Llanwit 78; 7 YG Bro Morgannwg 128; 8 Bryn Hafren 143.

Year 8 and 9 Girls – 3.6 km – 105 finishers – 2 Kate Coker (Stan) 14:21; 3 Erin Hayes (Lwt) 14:41; 10 Nadine James (Cow) 15:45; 11 Anastasia Mirza-Davies (Stan) 15:47; 12 Rebecca Thomas (Cow) 15:57; 13 Ellie Atkinson

14:42; 29 Niamh Jenkins

(Lwt) 15:59; 16 Ela Emry (Cow) 16:16; 19 Alice Tudor (Cow) 17:01; 28 Tilly Carter (Bro H) 17:38; 30 Ffion Davies (Bro M) 17:54; 32 Elin Phillips-Bowen (Bro M) 17:55; 33 Brooke Langdon-Cryer (Cow) 18:01; 34 Charlotte Webber (Broyn H) 18:01; 35 Kayla Huggins (Broyn H) 18:05; 37 Caitlin Young (Bro M) 18:14; 41 Lauren Blake (StRichGwyn) 18:32; 42 Kierney O'Dare (Lwt) 18:33; 43 Holly Howles (Lwt) 18:37; 46 Eleanor Hicks (Lwt) 18:55; 47 Natasha Johnston (Cow) 18:56; 51 Sally Gambling (Cow) 19:20; 54 Catrin Davies (Bro M) 19:29; 55 Izzy Eddy-Williams (Cow) 19:32; 56 Megan Langdon-Cryer (Cow) 19:36; 57 Ffion Hopkins (Cow) 19:38; 60 Evie Williams (Cow) 19:49; 64 Tamara Pitt (Lwt) 20:09; 70 Mellisa Gray (Lwt) 20:40; 71 Milly Williams (Stan) 20:43; 72 Sophie Morse (Bro M) 20:45; 74 Megan Thomason (Bro M) 20:50; 75 Ruth May (Lwt) 20:54; 80 Robin Tait (Bro M) 21:31; 81 Alys Walton (Bro M) 21:35; 83 Abbie Dee (StRichGwyn) 21:59; 84 Alice Nottingham (Stan) 22:03; 85 Sarah Arnold (Broyn H) 22:08; 86 Heuwini Hill (StRichGwyn) 2:21:11; 87 Laura Young (Lwt) 22:14; 97 Sophia Swaffield (StRichGwyn) 22:59; 100 Morgan White (StRichGwyn) 23:31; 104 Rebecca Gill (StRichGwyn) 27:40; 105 Kelsey Penikett (StRichGwyn) 27:41.

Teams: 2 Cowbridge 57; 4 Llanwit 101; 8 YG Bro Morgannwg 153; 9 Stanwell 168; 10 Bryn Hafren 169; 12 Cowbridge B 186; 14 Bryn Hafren 18 (13).

Overall League placings: Senior – 1 Cowbridge 59; 4 Bryn Hafren 48; 6 Bro Morgannwg 43; 7 Llanwit Major 42; 10 St Cyres 32; 12 St Richard Gwyn 28; 14 Stanwell 18.

Year 8 and 9 – 1

Cowbridge 71; 5 Stanwell 60; 8 Llanwit Major 56; 9 Bryn Hafren 53; 10 Bro Morgannwg

midfielders on both sides with the Tigers shading it on possession and chances.

After the break the home side settled down and started to play some more cohesive football although the best chance came to Hattie Powell, the Tigers lone forward, who got through the middle of the Dinas defence only to have her shot blocked by home keeper Amy O'Callaghan.

Apart from a mad

scramble in front of O'Callaghan's goal

chances were again at a

premium, although home

striker Shanelle Edwards

created a great chance for herself with some tricky

skills, only to blast her

shot high and wide.

While Mardy again

edged possession,

they couldn't create much to

trouble the home keeper.

With five minutes to

go and the game looking

like ending in a rare goalless draw, the Tigers lost the ball in midfield. It was picked up by Jordan Guard who slipped a superb pass between the visitors right back and centre back for Edwards to run on to and finish neatly into the far corner.

Ellen's success

THERE was some great

news from Belgium,

where Wales under-19

girls were playing a

friendly on Tuesday.

Ellen Phillips, who

plays for the Dinas Powys ladies team,

scored in a 2-2 draw.

MW



Bethan Daw and Megan Osborne.



Seren Allin. Erin Hayes.

## Under-8s just miss the cut

**LLANTWIT Major under-8s travelled to Llandaff North on Sunday to enter the local rugby tournament.**

After a long wait, they finally played the first game against Llandaff North under-8s. Llanishen won this match in a close-run game with good hand work from both teams.

In addition, Miss Emma Williams (Bryn Hafren) and Mrs Clare Williams were included in the management team.

This year's event is a celebration of the 50 years since the first Welsh Schools National cross-country championships (for boys) was held at Newtown, then in Montgomeryshire, on March 4, 1961. The winner of the junior boys race at that first event was Phil Morgan of Barry Boys' School.

Report PETER MORRIS

unanswered 10 tries to nil in this very fast game.

The final game of the group was a must-win for Llanishen but this wasn't their day. Llanishen were undefeated and looking for a clean sweep at Llanishen's cost.

The game was very fast and well controlled by Llanishen with a few sparks of magic from a tired Llanishen team.

Llanishen missed out from playing in the quarter finals by one point.

**Llanishen Major's team: Kieran Daw, Bradley Claxton, Garin Evans, Jacob Hunt, Jonathan Bramhall, Kofi Jones, Luke Pownall, Morgan Thomas, Sam Deere and Toby Thorne.**

Well done Llanishen under-8s; next tournament in Barry.

MD

## COWBRIDGE UNDER-14S FIGHT BACK

**COWBRIDGE under-14 football team – sponsored by Llanishen Major and Cowbridge Lions, played Woodford Youth from Essex – sponsored by Fairlop Lions.**

Cowbridge, and the score was Cowbridge 1, Woodford 8 at half time.

The half time team talk by coach Alan Griffiths will go down in history – we will never know what he told the lads. They came out fighting and the second half was 0-0.

The Lions organised after-match refreshments at Noah's Place, Ramoth Chapel, to ensure the Woodford boys returned to Essex full of Welsh sausage casserole thanks to the Rev Heather and her team.

JW

## LLANTWIT MAJOR JUNIOR FOOTBALL ROUND-UP

### Under-14 As win local derby

by GWYN JOHN

**L L A N T W I T MAJOR under-12 side visited Dinas Powys and in a very close match, they lost 3-2.**

The Llanishen boys were very upset when the referee gave Jack Barnett offside when he dribbled the ball past two Dinas defenders to score.

This would have given Llanishen a draw and a share of the spoils. The two goals that were given came from Dan Viggers and Jack Barnett.

The under-14A beat Cowbridge Town 3-1 in the local derby at

Windmill Lane. It was a keenly-fought tussle with Llanishen taking their chances through Liam Reid, Connor Clarke and Jake Sutch.

A good team display saw them back on the winning trial.

Dylan Owen notched a goal for the under-14B side in their 5-1 home defeat against Sully Sports B and in their final home match of the season, the under-16 team finished on a disappointing note, losing 3-0 to Cogan Coronation.

### Dinas girls grab vital victory

**Dinas Powys Girls under-18s 1 Mardy Tigers under-18s 0**

midfielders on both sides with the Tigers shading it on possession and chances.

After the break the home side settled down and started to play some more cohesive football although the best chance came to Hattie Powell, the Tigers lone forward, who got through the middle of the Dinas defence only to have her shot blocked by home keeper Amy O'Callaghan.

Apart from a mad scramble in front of O'Callaghan's goal chances were again at a premium, although home

striker Shanelle Edwards created a great chance for herself with some tricky skills, only to blast her shot high and wide.

While Mardy again edged possession, they couldn't create much to trouble the home keeper.

With five minutes to go and the game looking like ending in a rare goalless draw, the Tigers lost the ball in midfield. It was picked up by Jordan Guard who slipped a superb pass between the visitors right back and centre back for Edwards to run on to and finish neatly into the far corner.

Ellen's success

THERE was some great news from Belgium, where Wales under-19 girls were playing a friendly on Tuesday.

Ellen Phillips, who

plays for the Dinas Powys ladies team,

scored in a 2-2 draw.

MW

# Cowbridge under-8s' two teams enjoy rugby tournament

**COWBRIDGE** under-8s took a trip to Cheltenham where two teams competed in the Cheltenham Rugby Festival.

One team entered the Cherokee league competing in pool B, and the other in the Chiefs league in pool A. All players and supporters wish to thank the coaching team of Rich, Robin and Andy for their commitment and efforts with the whole of the under-8s squad.

**Cherokees Pool B:**  
Cowbridge under-8s  
Cherokees squad :  
James Gilyear, Matthew Gilyear, Owen Godsall, Ellis Greenwood, Harry Holtam, Ellis Howell, Tom Johnson, McKinley Parsons, Dewi Williams.

The pool was keenly contested and despite not winning too many games, the Cowbridge team performed well in attack throughout the games.

The short, sharp games spread proved to be an exciting challenge.

## Cowbridge 3

## Bradford On Avon 4

A close game where Cowbridge kept pace with the eventual winners of the group throughout the match.

With the scoreline at 2-2 at half-time, with tries from Harry Holtam and Owen Godsall, the second half was destined to be a hard fought four minutes of rugby.

Bradford opened the scoring before Cowbridge responded with a try from Dewi Williams. A lack of width in defence and

some ball tracking let the Cowbridge side down, allowing Bradford to score the winner just seconds before the final whistle.

Tries: Harry Holtam, Owen Godsall, Dewi Williams.

## Cowbridge 3 Minety 5

Again, another closely fought game saw Tom Johnson cross for Cowbridge in the first half after some excellent work by Ellis Greenwood.

Cowbridge conceded a trio of tries by half-time, but kept pace with Minety through the second half with Ellis Howell crossing twice after some excellent running and passing by the team.

Tries: Tom Johnson, Ellis Howell (2).

## Cowbridge 3 Stow on the Wold (II) 7

A couple of quick tries conceded by Cowbridge exposed defensive weaknesses and put them on the back foot for the remainder of the first half.

Despite McKinley Parsons running in an excellent try before half-time, Cowbridge went in to the break trailing 5-1.

Better width in defence and some good tagging from Cowbridge kept the Stow runners under control and limited their try tally to two. Ellis Greenwood crossed twice for Cowbridge with one excellent touchline run-in.

Tries: McKinley Parsons, Ellis Greenwood (2).

## Cowbridge 4 Stroud 6

Cowbridge put in a good performance and defended enthusiastically.

ly against a rampant Stroud, who had to work very hard for their three-try haul in the first half.

Tries: Ellis Greenwood and Owen Godsall, Dewi Williams.

## Cowbridge 3 Chippenham 3

Cowbridge's final game was against the hosts. James Gilyear scored Cowbridge's first try, while their second came from a turnover resulting from the completion of a seven-tag sequence by Cowbridge.

Following the turnover, Ellis Greenwood scored and Tom Johnson also crossed the line before half-time, giving Cowbridge a 3-1 lead.

Tom added to his first half try and Dewi Williams converted a period of concerted pressure from Cowbridge into a try. The team ended a tough tournament with a win and some good defensive lessons learned through the 40 minutes of rugby they played.

GW

## Chiefs Pool A

**COWBRIDGE** under-8s  
Chiefs squad: Iwan Davies, Daniel Harris, Robbie Hawkins, Harry Howkins, Oliver Jarman, Aled Leitch, Charlie Locke, Jack

**Reilly, Harry Whittaker and Jake Williams.**  
Cowbridge 3 Rhibina 5

In the first game, Cowbridge played the eventual winners of the tournament and it is fair to say that the Cowbridge boys gave them as good a game as they got.

Jake started off his Cowbridge player of the tournament display with two tries and Oliver, again continuing to improve, scored one. Regrettably, as in later games, Cowbridge's defence let them down.

## Cowbridge 3 Swindon 2

In the second game, Cowbridge beat Swindon with Jake, Jack and Oliver all scoring.

## Cowbridge 4 Salisbury 5

This was the crunch game, but from Cowbridge's perspective, the most disappointing.

It was end-to-end stuff with Salisbury eventually winning 5-4, even though with little time left it was three tries all.

Unfortunately the defence, which has been so good in friendlies recently, let them down.

Tries in this game were from Jake (2), David and Joan.

## Cowbridge 5

In the fourth game, Cowbridge produced their best rugby of the tournament. There were two tries from Oliver and three by Jake, although it was the teamwork that shone through.

## Cowbridge 1 Corsham 4

Sadly, by this time, Cowbridge were unable to qualify. Some of the bad habits of earlier games came back to haunt them as missed tags cost them dearly, and the only Cowbridge try was scored by Jake.

All in all this was a useful learning experience and it's perhaps fair to say that finishing fourth in their group probably didn't reflect this team's potential.

JS



**Jasmine Quinn (age 8) from Bridgend – proud finisher at last year's event.**

## Vital three points earned by Cadoxton Barry FC

**South Wales Senior League**  
**Division One**  
**CADOXTON BARRY FC** 3  
**CWMBACH ROYAL STARS** 1

**WHILE** the score might suggest otherwise, Cadoxton Barry FC were forced to battle all the way for three points that could eventually prove vital in their bid to avoid relegation.

The star man in that battle was Pat Curran, who was paramount in helping his team take home the important three points.

Stars had a huge centre forward who was the target of many of their forward thrusts; yet Curran, by means of excellent marking and his perfectly-timed headed clearances, rendered this potentially dangerous striker ineffective for most of the game.

The first half belonged to Cadoxton Barry as an early Mills cross found Martyn, who hit a post with Murphy unable to steer the rebound home.

At the other end, Curran made a crucial clearance as Matthew Jones was preparing to pounce, but it wasn't long before he was back at the other end of the action, as the point-savvy double act of the previous week got together again – Curran running in to score an excellent header from an equally good Martyn corner kick.

Before 25 minutes were on the clock, Mills, playing a slightly deeper role than usual, fed Murphy to double the lead.

Ten minutes later, Martyn got hold of the ball some 35 yards out on the left, and his cross-cum-shot completely deceived Prosser in the Stars' goal as it dropped into the net.

This seemed to sting Cwmbach into action as, for the first time in the game, and with half-time approaching, they began to build a head of steam.

Indeed they continued in this manner into the second half, and as the pressure grew, Curran made his only error of

## CHANCE TO TRY JUNIOR TRIATHLON

**THE** Pencoed Junior Triathlon and 'Fun2Tri' event for eight-16 year olds will take place at Pencoed Pool, on Sunday, May 22.

A spokeswoman said: "Children will swim, bike and run in four age groups. Distances are suited to the age of the child, and medals will go to the top three male and females in each age group.

"To give all children, regardless of experience and fitness levels, the opportunity to have a go, our Fun2Tri novice wave

for eight-14 year olds will not be timed, has shorter distances and an emphasis on having a go and having lots of fun," said event organiser Debbie Cooke. "The event takes place in the pool and on surrounding playing fields – entirely traffic free."

For an entry form and further information, visit the club website [www.pencoedtri.org](http://www.pencoedtri.org) or e-mail [pencoedtri@live.com](mailto:pencoedtri@live.com), or telephone Liz Lewis on 01446 771507. The closing date is May 16 or when event full (maximum 100 entrants).

## Rhoose under-12s hang onto hard victory

**RHOOSE** under-12s started their game with Wenvoe well and opened the scoring with a well worked move.

Lee Bartlett and Cameron Leach found Baker up with a half chance, but Prosser was able to smother it.

Towards the end,

Cadoxton

began to come out of their shells. Mills

crossing for Martyn to send a shot just wide.

The next match takes

place on Tuesday, March 29 when AFC Butetown

will be the visitors to Jenner Park in a 6.15pm kick-off.

The latest Linnets'

Lottery draw saw the

numbers 1, 3, 5, 7, 8 and 9 come out of the bag.

There were no winners

so next week's offered

prize goes up to £300,

with a choice of six num-

bers from 19.

NW

defenders Edward Thomas and Ryan Hughes made some great blocks.

Matt Cottington and Patrick O'Carroll also made some timely interceptions to thwart Wenvoe attacks.

Wenvoe pulled one back, but Rhoose maintained their advantage with a superbly hit strike by Daniel Cope which found the top corner.

Wenvoe scored again towards the end of the match, which meant a nervous time for Rhoose, but with Jordan Holt making some good challenges in midfield, and Andrew Wilson holding the ball up well, Rhoose managed to hang on to their victory.

MB

## Welsh road racing championships come to Bridgend in 2011

**BRIDGEND'S**  
**council-run**  
**Ogmore Valley Life**  
**Centre has won the**  
**bid to host the**  
**Welsh Road Racing**  
**Championships in**  
**May 2011.**

ties and competitions running in the centre, such as bike workshops, children's activities and a presentation ceremony for the winners.

The winner will be crowned national champion of Wales and entitled to wear the national colours in races during the following year.

Previous winner, Geraint Thomas MBE, went on to ride in the Tour de France in 2007, later becoming an Olympic and World Championship gold medallist.

## D&R SALVAGE

**MOT failures and non runners wanted.**

**PAYING UP TO £200**

**CASH ON COLLECTION**

**Call Danny on 07814 922908**

## Busy time for Cowbridge Town under-12 B team

**COWBRIDGE** Town under-12 B have been busy recently with plenty of games, although with a mixed bag of results and performances.

The team travelled to Wenvoe and after a great team effort, came away with a well earned 2-2 draw, Tom Bailey scoring both his team's goals.

Next up were Cadoxton Imps A, and in a very entertaining game Cadoxton just edged it 3-2, with Callum Blackman scoring both Cowbridge goals.

Sully B came to Corntown and again in a very good game, after getting themselves back into the game at 4-4, bad habits crept back into the Cowbridge display and Sully went on to score three more goals, to leave the final score 4-7 to Sully; goalscorers James Reeves (2), Joe Watts and Tom Bailey.

Cowbridge then had two away games. First up was Dinas B, and after leading 2-1 for most of the game Dinas equalised in the last seconds to force a draw; goalscorers Tom Bailey and an own goal.

The boys then travelled to play Cogan B and in a much improved display, they ran out 4-2 winners with

goals coming from Iwan Goodwin, Owen Tuckell (2), and an own goal. Cadoxton B came to Corntown and in a one-sided game ran out 9-1 winners, Iwan Goodwin with the consolation goal for Cowbridge.

The boys then had two away games, the first being against Holton Road. In a game of two halves, the boys conceded six first half goals, while the second half display was superb, conceding no goals and getting on the score sheet themselves through a James Reeves penalty, to leave the final score 6-1.

The return game at Sully B ended in a 2-2 draw with goals coming from Joe Watts and Iwan Goodwin.

Hopefully, the boys can improve on their recent results and performances and get a few wins under their belts.

Thanks to Craig Burrows and all the senior team players for helping out with training and the continuing support of all the parents.

**Squad:** H Hopkins, T Kynaston, J Evans, A Davies, I Silverthorne, J Reeves, J Watts, S John, S Skeet, T Bailey, C Blackman, O Tuckwell, I Goodwin, S Fairclough, S Treharne, J Jones, M Timms.

EJ

## TEAM SO CLOSE TO FINAL GLORY



## Vale team in form but lose out in semi-final

**LEFT:**  
Nick Boudier (in green) leaping in the lineout.

AT a sunny Tondu RFC, the Vale under-15 rugby team overcame Bridgend schools by 18-12 in the Morgan Griffiths plate competition quarter-final.

Both teams started well, with Bridgend getting the first score with a try by their burly No 8 after a close range lineout drive, adding the conversion to make it 7-0.

The Vale hit back through some good handling in the backs using Morgan Williams, Jacob Burgess, Matt Allen and Kieron Mitchell, and were awarded a number of penalties. Ed Howley made certain of one and hit the upright with another.

Before half-time, Owain Lord pounced on a loose ball to score a try. Howley added the conversion to turn around at half-time, 7-10 up.

The second half started particularly well for Bridgend by using their dangerous backs, especially their full-back and right wing, who worked well to create an overlap on the right to score in the corner.

Vale had to defend with both backs and forwards and, from a defensive kick on their own line, a favourable bounce landed in the hands of the chasing Che Pomphrey to gather and feed the supporting James Whittingham,

who did well to find the ever-present Nick Boudier, who powered in from 15 metres out to score near the posts.

Ed Howley's conversion hit the upright again and was adjudged to have missed.

The final five minutes saw a heroic defensive display by the Vale as Bridgend threw everything at them, using the bigger pack and dangerous wide runners. The Vale were up to the task, led by Stef Baker, John Miles, Harry Thomas and Chris Brace.

Vale managed to clear their lines by kicking out of danger, following up well and causing Bridgend to lose possession. The Bridgend full-back was penalised and Howley made sure of the three points.

**Final score:** Bridgend 12, Vale of Glamorgan 18.

In the semi-final against Pontypridd at Hawthorn High School, the result was reversed with Pontypridd running out deserved victors by 26-5. Against a team that had played a number of high calibre matches recently, the Vale schools started well, ably led by Harry Roberts at hooker.

The first exchanges were explosive affairs with neither team taking a backward step.

Ponty were the first to score using their dangerous backline in the first five minutes to score out wide.

Ponty scored two further tries without reply, but the Vale battled well to contain them and score a try of their own from a tap penalty. Harry Roberts driving over after quick thinking by Owain Lord and Chris Brace.

Ponty scored a loose clearance to run wide and score through their left wing, making the final score 26-5.

The team's 15-a-side exploits this season have come to an end but they look forward to the national sevens competition in May. Harry Roberts praised the help and time given by coaches and managers this season to make it such an enjoyable and rewarding experience.

*Vale squad: Sam Hall, Harry Roberts, Alan Doyle, John Miles, Nick Boudier, Stefani Baker, Kieran Mitchell, Matt Allen, Owain Lord, James Whittingham, Che Pomphrey, Ed Howley, Morgan Williams, Harry Thomas, Jacob Burgess, Mason Good, Lewis Griffiths, Harry D-Bennett, Chris Brace, Dafydd Fardy.*



## Rhoose FC show their new kit

**RHOOSE FC's** year-2 side are pictured sporting their new kit, kindly supplied by BBM Control Systems. The children were able to run out on Saturday in their new kit for the first time this season.

## Cowbridge RFC grab last-ditch win over Ponty

**THE Cowbridge under-13s travelled up to Glyncoch to try and avenge a narrow defeat to Pontypridd RFC earlier in the season.**

The game got off to a very fast start and for the first 10 minutes, Cowbridge were under pressure with Ponty securing the first try of the game to take a 7-0 lead.

The Cowbridge pack started to boss their opponents with excellent work from

Owain Thomas Jenkins, Luke John and Tom Evans and Cowbridge started to get a lot of ball, which resulted in scrum half Tom Lucas scrambling over for a try which was duly converted by Matt Harper, who had a brilliant game at fly half.

The score changed hands several times with Cowbridge constantly on the attack with great

runs from Tom Trotman, Rian Thomas and Nathan Robson pushing the Ponty defence at all times, ably supported by the Cowbridge pack who protected the ball at all times.

Ben Jones, who was outstanding at number 8 throughout the game, linked in a move off the back of a scrum to crash over for a score before half time, and further second half tries from Tom Trotman and a last minute length of the

field effort from Tom Lucas left Matt Harper to secure the game for Cowbridge with the winning conversion and a final score of Cowbridge 26, Pontypridd 24.

A fantastic team effort played in the best of spirits by two very capable teams enabled Cowbridge to have a very enjoyable journey home – well done boys!

ML

## The under-12s survive the Pentyrch test

**Cowbridge under-12s** 34  
**Pentyrch** 19

**COWBRIDGE** visited Pentyrch for the first time this season after defeating them twice previously at home.

Cowbridge struggled to impose themselves on the home side for the first 10 minutes but an excellent burst through the Pentyrch defence by centre Dan Bunney midway through the first half opened the scoring for the visitors when he scored under the posts; Cai Evans converted.

The faster Cowbridge forwards now began to dominate, with Matthew Keating and Tom Edwards launching a powerful maul which allowed flanker Duncan Ace to breakaway, brushing aside a number of defenders before crashing over for an excellent try in the corner.

A second converted try for Dan Bunney gave the visitors a 15-point lead, but Pentyrch were not to be outdone and fought back well to score a try and reduce the lead to 10 points.

The last 10 minutes of the game were the most exciting as the game swung back and forth, and it was Cowbridge who had the last word, when Dan Bunney completed his hat trick to score the final try.

ML

## Getting ready for new season at St Andrews

**LAST weekend determined the final result of the winter league season at St Andrews Major Golf Club.**

**Sam Low and Sarah Gronow clinched the ladies winter league title in a closely fought match with Hilary James and Jane Harris.**

**Having gone five holes up by the seventh, Sam and Sarah were then pegged back to just one hole before securing their position on the gold leaf board with a two and one win.**

**This follows on from the mens winter league final, which was won by Craig Johansen and Phil Westcott, and the Wayne Pritchard**

memorial which was won by Rob Picton and Mark Cleaver.

**The club are eagerly looking forward to the main golf season.**

**This year promises to be one of the busiest yet at St Andrews, with more events than ever before.**

**The sponsors cup day has already attracted a large amount of interest from local businesses and offers 'hole in one' prizes of a new car, weekend away, set of golf clubs and golfing vouchers, along with many other 'spot prizes'.**

**For more information visit the members website [www.samgolf-club.com](http://www.samgolf-club.com).**

## Open cricket day for the juniors

**C O W B R I D G E Cricket Club holds a junior open day on Sunday, April 10 at 10.30am at the Athletic Ground.**

**There will be registration, coaching by fully qualified ECB coaches, a barbecue and raffle.**

**The club is keen for all boys or girls, experienced or beginners to get involved.**

**We are now on Twitter - follow us @gem-news**  
**[www.facebook.com/gemnews](http://www.facebook.com/gemnews)**

## Cadoxton Imps under-15s maintain their title bid

**CADOXTON IMPS** under-15s travelled to Cogan on Saturday to try to maintain their fantastic unbeaten run.

The Imps started the stronger and the early pressure paid off when a piledriver from Ashley Cottle nearly broke the Cogan net to give the Imps a well deserved lead.

Cogan gradually made their way back into the match, keeping the impressive Imps defence of Jacob Burgess, Louis Burrows and another top performance by Gage Waller reasonably busy.

Unfortunately, an injury to Jacob meant the Imps had to make an early substitution, thus allowing the welcome return to the team of the ever reliable Tom Dyball, following his recent back injury.

As the Imps took control of the game again, the frontline of Jordan Williams and Callum Harding were starting to look more and more dangerous, coming close to grabbing the all important second goal.

The passing became more assured through-

## Penarth mixed veterans are marching on

**PENARTH Windsor mixed veterans chalked up a third consecutive win with a resounding victory against Cwmbran.**

**Ian and Beth Hughes got off to a shaky start, losing the first three games in their first match, before going on to win the next 12 games to secure a 6-3, 6-0 victory.**

**Peter Bellingham and Cathy O'Doherty also started slowly, but came back from 4-0 down to win their first set 7-5, and then secured the second set 6-2 to win the match.**

**In the second round, the Penarth Windsor team played with**

**increased confidence. The Hughes team comfortably took their match 6-2, 6-1, while Bellingham and O'Doherty made relatively easy weather of their match to win 6-4, 6-2.**

**The result was a satisfying 4-0 win for the Seawiseers.**

**The Cwmbran victory is part of a successful season for the Windsor mixed veterans.**

**They have notched up wins over a previously unbeaten Dinas Powys side, as well as taking the honours against Cowbridge.**

**For more information, contact Nigel Gabriel 07540 166626.**

NG

**In addition to weekly coaching, the club will be running junior teams (under-9, under-11, under-13 and under-15) in the Cardiff and The Vale League and the National Knockout Cup.**

**For further information, contact Ian Evans (junior coordinator) on 01446 - 796211 or visit the Club's website: [www.cowbridgecricket.co.uk](http://www.cowbridgecricket.co.uk).**



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06/09 JAGUAR XF 2.7 24-Valve Premium Luxury, Pale Blue Metallic, 21,000 miles	£10495	£249
06/09 PEUGEOT 177 Unbreakable PWS, E/Mirrors	£6395	£149
09/09 MAZDA 3 1.6 Tourer, Metallic Paint, Alloys, A/C, CD	£7995	£186
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# MORTIMORE'S FOUR GOALS HELPS IN THE CHAMPIONSHIP CHASE

SAINTS went goal crazy in this frantic top-of-the-table clash.

Jordan Mortimore hit four goals, with a Dean Cleave double and one each from Nick Dyke, Leigh Lewis and an own goal adding to the scoring.

Saint Patrick Rovers had the perfect start, however, when Tony Charles, playing at centre-half, scythed down their winger in the box and a spot kick was awarded. Rovers dispatched their spot kick into the net for an early lead inside five minutes.

Saints went on in search of an equaliser and Mortimore hit the bar with a header almost immediately.

Saints kept plugging away and got their reward after 20 minutes. A James Austin free kick was met by the head of Cleave and the midfielder levelled the score.

Rovers went up the other end and stunned Saints straight away when a free kick was fumbled and their big defender smashed in from close range. A frantic few minutes followed as Saints levelled

for the second time four minutes later when a Nicky Cox ball forward was latched on to by Leigh Lewis in the area, and he lifted the ball over the oncoming keeper.

Two minutes later and Saints had the lead for the first time when Mortimore took the ball in his stride and dinked it neatly over the home keeper.

It was another two minutes later when Saints extended their lead. A big boot forward by Gareth Richards in goal eluded the centre-half and Dyke raced on to the ball and produced an exquisite lob over the keeper to score from the edge of the area.

Mortimore then put a penalty away in off the post and Saints had a three-goal cushion.

St Pat's were not to lay down though and had a second penalty, which they scored from.

Seconds away from half-time and a ball into the box by the home side saw a breakdown in communication by the away defence and Charles scored an unfortunate own goal. Saints went in 5-4 up after a pulsating first half.

**Bridgend 2nd District Sunday League Division One**  
**SAINT PATRICK ROVERS** 5  
**SUNDAY SAINTS FC** 9

Saints got the start to the second half they wanted when a Cleave ball into the box was met by the foot of a home defender and the ball looped into his own net.

Saints restored their three-goal cushion minutes later when a Reece Lewis free kick into the box was met by the unmarked Cleave and he headed in his second of the game and an unbelievable 16th in 15 games this season.

St Pat's pulled another one back midway through the half after breaking the offside trap, but Saints were comfortable at this point and in full control.

Dyke went on to strike the bar with another great lob and Leigh Lewis struck what looked to be goal of the

game, but the ref failed to play the advantage after a foul on Lewis and the whistle had already gone.

Mortimore completed his hat trick when another Leigh Lewis long throw wreaked havoc in the home area and Joel Tofton's strike was blocked and came out for Mortimore to smash in from eight yards.

The scoring was complete a minute later when Alan Lawson's perfect cross was powered in by the head of Mortimore for his fourth of the game and an incredible 38th goal in 19 games this season.

Saints almost made it 10 when TJ Bowring hit a left-footed effort across goal but it squirmed agonisingly past the far post.

Saints took a while to

get going here but when they did, they were in complete control against a good St Pat's side. Saints need results to go their way to claim the 1st Division title and by winning games like this are doing their part.

Saints are not back in action until April 10 at home against St Patrick Rovers in the semi-final of the 1st Division league cup.

Man of the match was Jordan Mortimore after his four goals helped his team to victory.

Many thanks to Lafarga Cement (Aberthaw Works), The Kinsale Stone Company (Wales) Ltd for sponsorship of the team and to Roy and Cyndy at the Four Bells, St Athan for their continued support for the team.

*Saints FC: G Richards, R Lewis, A Lawson, A Charles, N Cox (captain), T Roberts, D Cleave, J Austin (J Tofton on 72 minutes), L Lewis (R Collings on 81 minutes), J Mortimore, N Dyke (TJ Bowring on 82 minutes). Subs: J Tofton, R Collings, G Morgans, TJ Bowring.*

HD

## Barry under-8s miss out in tournament



**BARRY under-8s** played their part in an excellent rugby tournament at Llandaff North RFC on Sunday.

In Barry's group were the hosts Llandaff, Penarth, Rumney.

In the first match, Barry played Penarth. This game was nip and tuck for the full match, and a draw was a fair result.

The second game saw the Vale side up against the host side. Barry went about their business, and ran in worthy 7-5 winners.

This left Barry knowing a draw or win in their last game against Rumney would see them through. Barry started

slowly in what turned out to be the most entertaining game of the day as they just lost out, 6-4.

All the players from Barry played with great team spirit.

D Parry-Griffiths and C Saunders scored plenty of tries in the three games.

Z Fifield, B Phillips, J Roberts, and I Escort all showed great support play and tagging, while E Rudolph, C Denbury and Dylan all carried the ball well.

Finally, J Couch

proved a great battering ram as Barry looked to gain yardage.

Well done boys and

girls, first class display from all and great sportsmanship shown by all players yet again.

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# Dinas Powys FC find it no fun to play at the YMCA!

THIS was the worst result, and probably the poorest performance of the season for Dinas against a YMCA side boosted by their 1-1 draw the week before against top of the table side Ton Pentre.

Dinas weren't able to get any fluency in their football on a lively pitch during a first-half with YM edging possession, but Dinas having the best opportunities to get on the scoresheet.

On thirty-two minutes, a Ben Dimond corner found Dave Penikett at the far post who somehow managed to hook the ball back for Gareth Tedstone, his shot hit the upright.

A few minutes later a good ball out of defence found Tedstone who crossed for Barrie Gunstone, whose first shot hit the same post and bounced down into the grateful arms of Mark Mearns in the YM goal.

At the other end, Nail Yates headed a free-kick wide and an Oliver Beckett's deflected shot from twenty yards.

The best goal of the game came from YM captain Alex Jenkins, who didn't need any help from a deflection with his long range 25 yard effort.

The visitors' misery was complete when a low cross found Aaron Stewart, who had the simplest task of scoring

**Welsh League Division Two**  
**Newport YMCA** 4  
**Dinas Powys** 0

ball out for a corner.

In the second-half Dinas just didn't get going, their cause not helped when they lost two influential players, Dave Penikett and Barrie Gunstone, to injury.

Twenty minutes into the half, the home side took the lead when an innocuous thirty yard free-kick was deflected to substitute Daniel Edwards, who scored with a low shot from eight yards.

Just before the goal Dave Burnett in the Dinas goal had made an excellent save from a Yeates header, but he couldn't do anything when he was beaten by Oliver Beckett's deflected shot from twenty yards.

The best goal of the game came from YM captain Alex Jenkins, who didn't need any help from a deflection with his long range 25 yard effort.

For further news and fixtures see the club's web site: [www.dinaspowysfc.co.uk](http://www.dinaspowysfc.co.uk).

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### LATEST results from Barrivale:

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Mick & Mike also won on handicap.

Tuesday, March 8 - 1st, Noelle Bond and Mick Green 61.11 per cent; 2nd, Hilary Laurence and Denis Mottram 54.76; 3rd, Adrian Thomas and Bryn Gough 53.17.

Hilary and Denis won on handicap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale.

For more information ring 01446 733425.

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# New Broad Street Motors Ltd

Ty Verlon Ind Est, Cardiff Road, Barry CF63 2BE



09 09 FORD Ka 1.2 Zetec 3-dr hatchback. In dive blue with grey interior, air con, quickclear screen, aux input, alloy wheels, cd, only 22,960 miles. £7,795



06 06 VOLKSWAGEN Golf 1.6 FSI S 5-dr hatchback. In black with grey interior, electronic stability programme, climate, cd, colour coded bumpers, only 48,840 miles. £6,995



03 53 MG TF 1.8 135bhp 2-dr Convertible. In starlight silver with black interior, alloy wheels, body coloured bumpers, CD, electric windows, only 30,845 miles. £3,995



08 57 FORD Fusion 1.6 Zetec Climate 5-dr hatchback automatic. In amethyst with grey interior, alloy wheels, air con, immobiliser, quickclear front screen, power steering, only 22,000 miles. £6,495

## 4X4

07 07 LANDROVER Range Rover Sport 2.7 TD V6 HSE 5-dr Station Wagon Automatic. In Stormaway grey with black leather interior, climate control, cruise control, privacy glass heated front screen, only 29,500 miles. £31,995

07 07 KIA Sorento 2.5 CRDI XE Automatic 5-dr Station Wagon in quartz grey/purple with grey interior, air con, CD, roof rails, four wheel drive, service history, only 36,500 miles. £12,995

03 53 SUZUKI Jimny 1.2 02 Edition 3Dr Soft Top Convertible. In black with anthracite interior, CD, electric windows, alloy wheels, only 36,700 miles. £4,995

02 02 AUDI TT Roadster 1.8 T (225) 2-dr Convertible. In silver with grey leather interior, six CD changer, BOSE sound system, 17" alloy wheels, immobiliser only 70,620 miles. £8,995

01 51 Landrover Freelander 1.8 GS 3-dr hard top. In bonatti grey with smokestone interior, cd, electric windows, sunroof, alloy wheels, only 85,740 miles. £3,495

## PRESTIGE

07 07 MERCEDES BENZ CLK 1.8 CLK200 Kompressor Sport Cabriolet Automatic. In Tellurium silver with black leather interior, electric seats with memory, parktronic system, 18" AMG alloy wheels, cruise control, only 36,760 miles. £21,995

06 56 BMW 116i SE 5-dr in sparkling graphite met with full Boston beige leather interior, comfort pack, cd, climate control, alloy wheels, reversing sensors, auxiliary 1-pod connection, only 20,010 miles interior titanium trim, auto lights and auto wipers. £8,995

03 03 BMW 3 Series 3.0 330 Ci Convertible in Topaz Blue with Montana grey leather interior, 6-CD changer, heated seats, automatic air cn, traction control system, only 55,200 miles. £9,495

05 55 ASTON MARTIN DB9 5.9 Volante 2-dr Convertible. In metallic blue with beige leather interior, cruise control, sat nav system, rear parking aid, wood trim, only 7,220 miles. £POA

03 52 BMW 7 Series 745i 4.4 saloon automatic. In titanium silver with black leather interior, rear parking sensors, multi cd, electric memory seats, alloy wheeels, only 70,360 miles. £8,495

02 52 MERCEDES Benz CLK 2.6 240 Avantgarde 2-dr Coupe. In Tanzanite blue with alpaca grey leather interior, luxury climate control, Parktronic sensors, cruise control, service history, only 73,400 miles. £7,495

02 02 JAGUAR X-type 2.5 V6 Automatic Sport 4-dr Saloon. In Anthracite Black with Sand sport leather interior, reverse park control, automatic climate control, cruise control, privacy glass, colour coded bumpers, only 70,080 miles. £4,995

02 51 BMW 3 Series 2.5 325Ci Sport 2-Dr Coupe. In Oxford green with black Montana leather interior, automatic air con, multi-CD changer, alarm, 18" alloy wheels, only 81,000 miles. £5,995

01 01 Y PORSCHE Boxster S 3.2 2-Dr Convertible. In arctic silver with black leather interior, multi-CD, heated seats, 17" 5-spoke alloy wheels, only 51,250 miles. £11,995

01 01 Y MERCEDES BENZ C-Class 2.0 C200 Kompressor Elegance 4-dr Saloon in brilliant silver with onion grey interior, alloy wheels, air con, cruise control, one owner, full service history, only 67,000 miles. £4,995

## SPORTS

06 06 BMW 3.0 TD MSport Automatic 4-dr Saloon in met black with beige leather in terior, electric folding mirrors, automatic air con, MV-2 alloy wheels, traction control system, only 58,900 miles. £15,995

09 59 VAUXHALL Astra 1.8 16v (140ps) SRi 3-dr Sports Hatch. In technical grey with charcoal alpha cloth interior, air con, 17" alloy wheels, front fogs, ESP, immobiliser, only 26,850 miles. £9,995

09 09 MINI 1.6 (120bhp) Cooper (Pepper) Graphite. In graphite grey with black interior, storage compartment package, 2 spoke leather steering wheel, air con, CD, only 6,570 miles. £13,495

07 07 SEAT Leon 2.0 TDI DPF FR 5-dr Hatchback. In black magic with FR grey interior, cruise control, air con, traction control system, ESP, only 38,598 miles. £11,995

07 07 VAUXHALL Tigra 1.4i 16v sport 2-dr cabriolet in air blue with charcoal alpha interior, alloy wheels, body coloured bumpers, cd, front fogs, only 48,730 miles. £6,995

06 56 VOLKSWAGEN Golf 1.4TSI (170ps) FT 5-dr in reflex silver metallic with siemens anthracite interior, climate air con, front fogs, alloy wheels, cd, only 49,998 miles. £9,995

05 05 VOLKSWAGEN Golf 2.0 T Fsi (200ps) GTi 5-dr Hatchback in tornado red with anthracite Vienna leather interior, parking sensors, heated front seats, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, onl 67,600 miles. £9,995

06 55 RENAULT Megane 2.0 VVT 136 Privilege 2-dr Coupe Cabriolet. In metallic gold with magnolia leather interior, luxury pack, climate control, multi CD, cruise control, panoramic roof, only 9,250 miles. £6,995

05 55 BMW 1 Series 2.0TD 118d Sport 5-Dr Hatchback. In sapphire black with anthracite interior, CD, climate control, alloy wheels, front fogs, only 52,000 miles. £10,495

05 55 FORD Street Ka 1.6 Luxury 2-dr Convertible. In French blue with ebony black leather interior, air con, cd, quick clear front screen, only 21,720 miles. £4,995

05 05 MAZDA 3 Sport 2.0 5-Dr Hatchback. In winning blue with ebony cloth, 17" alloy wheels, climate control, multi CD, front fogs, only 57,390 miles. £5,995

04 04 TOYOTA MR2 1.8 VVTi 140 6-spdr in saley grey met with Santa Monica leather, alloy wheels, chrome roll over bar, wind deflector, cd, alarm and immobiliser, only 49,750 miles. £6,995

04 04 CITROEN C2 1.6 VTR Sensodrive in arctic steel silver with neutron mesh interior, paddle shift, alloy wheels, air con, colour coded bumpers, rear spoiler, cd, only 62,100 miles. £3,495

03 53 HONDA Civic 1.6 VTec SE Sport 3-Dr Hatchback. In Aqua green, half black leather interior, air

con, alloy wheels, heated electric mirrors, CD, only 46,400 miles. £4,495

03 53 MG TF 1.8 135bhp 2-dr Convertible. In starlight silver with black interior, alloy wheels, body coloured bumpers, CD, electric windows, only 30,845 miles. £3,995

89 89 G BMW 3 Series 320i 2.0 2-dr Convertible. In silver with black leather interior, headlamp cleaning system, M-Technic steering wheel, wood effect trim, electric windows, front fog lights, alloy wheels, only 68,140 miles. £4,995

## FAMILY

09 58 FORD Mondeo 2.0 TDCi (140) Zetec 5-dr Hatchback in stardust silver with ebony interior, blue-tooth phone prep, traction control system, air con, quick clear screen, cruise control, only 31,910 miles. £12,995

08 58 FORD Fusion 1.6 Zetec Climate 5-Dr Hatchback automatic. In amethyst with grey interior, alloy wheels, air con, immobiliser, quickclear front screen, power steering, only 22,000 miles. £6,495

08 08 VAUXHALL Astra 1.6 Breeze 5-dr in star silver met with tabita charcoal interior, alloy wheels, climate control, trip computer, body coloured bumpers, only 10,800 miles. £7,995

08 08 FORD Fiesta 1.4 Zetec Climate 5-Dr Hatchback. In tango red with anthracite interior, quick clear screen, air con, CD, aux input, alloy wheels, only 10,700 miles. £6,995

07 57 SEAT Altea XL 1.9 TDI Styline in metallic ruby red with styline grey interior, rear parking sensors, cd, climate control, cruise control, aux input, only 49,100 miles. £8,495

08 58 CITROEN Xsara Picasso 1.6 HDi Desire 5-dr MPV. In oriental blue with black interior, ISOFIX anchorage point, air con, front electric windows, only 36,740 miles. £7,995

07 57 VAUXHALL Zafira 1.8 16v SRi 5-dr MPV. In silver lightning with Silver Alpha Charcoal interior, air con, traction control system, alloy wheels, only 52,000 miles. £7,495

07 57 VAUXHALL Meriva 1.4 16v Breeze 5-dr MPV. In Black sapphire with charcoal interior, reversing sensors, CD, air con, privacy glass, only 23,580 miles. £6,495

07 07 CITROEN Xsara Picasso 1.6 HDi VTX 5-dr MPV. In arctic steel with grey interior, air con, rear parking sensors, traction control system, body coloured bumpers, only 53,050 miles. £6,995

07 07 RENAULT Clio 1.4 16v 98 Dynamique 5-dr Hatchback. In mercury silver with carbon sport interior, air con, CD, front fogs, alarm, only 15,060 miles. £6,495

06 06 VOLKSWAGEN Golf 1.6 FSI 5-Dr Hatchback. In black with grey interior, electronic stability programme, climate, cd, colour coded bumpers, only 48,840 miles. £6,995

05 54 AUDI A3 1.6 Special Edition 3-dr Hatchback. In black with charcoal interior, CD, front logs, climate control, alloy wheels, one owner only 60,300 miles. £6,995

04 54 VOLKSWAGEN Polo 1.4 Twintop 3-dr Hatchback in indigo blue with anthracite interior, air con, electric heated mirrors, electric windows, service history, one owner, only 22,480 miles. £4,495

04 54 FORD Mondeo Ghia 5-Dr Hatchback. In platinum silver with ebony interior, 6-CD changer, automatic air con, alarm, immobiliser, alloy wheels, only 5,300 miles. £4,395

04 04 TOYOTA Avensis 2.0 VVT-i Sportivo 4-dr Saloon. Silver fern, st moritz charcoal leather, map gps nav system, climate, cruise, electric seat adjustment, only 55,065 miles. £5,995

03 03 FORD Focus 1.6 16v LX 5-Dr Hatchback. In blue with midnight black interior, air con, quick clear screen, alloy wheels, service history, only 71,000 miles. £3,495

## SMALL

09 09 SUZUKI Swift 1.6VVT Sport 3-Dr Hatchback. In metallic red with anthracite interior, air con, alloy wheels, auto dimming, rear view mirror, front fogs, only 16,500 miles. £8,250

09 09 FORD Ka 1.2 Zetec 3-dr hatchback. In dive blue with grey interior, air con, quickclear screen, aux input, alloy wheels, cd, only 22,960 miles. £7,795

08 08 CHEVROLET Matiz 1.0 SE+ 5-dr Hatchback. In mighty blue with grey interior, air con, central locking, CD, front electric windows, ISOFIX, only 26,560 miles. £3,995

08 08 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 16v Design (A/C). 5 door in ice blue with dark interior, air con, MP3 input, colour coded bumpers, front fog lights, only 19,950 miles. £7,995

08 08 MAZDA 2 1.3 TS 3-dr Hatchback. In icy blue with charcoal black interior, electric mirrors, front electric windows, power steering, CD, service history, only 29,800 miles. £6,795

08 08 CITROEN C1 1.0i Rhythm 5-dr Hatchback in Caldera black with black interior, electric front windows, p/steering, CD, centre rear seat belt, 1 owner, £35 a year road tax, only 18,100 miles. £5,495

08 08 FORD KA Studio. In panther black with cascade interior, immobiliser, CD, drivers airbag, central locking, only 32,349 miles. £4,495

06 56 FORD Fiesta 1.25 Zetec Climate 3-dr Hatchback. In tonic blue with Tungsten Denim blue interior, alloy wheels, air con, electric front windows, power steering, only 46,000 miles. £4,995

06 56 FIAT Panda 1.2 Dynamic Duologic 5-Dr In Guacamole green with yellow Move interior, air con, CD, central locking, immobiliser, body coloured bumpers, only 30,500 miles. £4,495

06 06 HYUNDAI Getz 1.1 Atlantic 3-dr hatchback. In sky blue with dark grey interior, air con, alloy wheels, front fogs, body coloured bumpers, alarm, 27,820 miles. £4,450

05 55 RENAULT Clio 1.4 16v Expression 3-Dr Hatchback. In platinum silver with grey interior, air con, CD, panoramic roof, only 49,600 miles. £4,495

04 04 FORD Ka 1.6 Sport 3-dr Hatchback. Magnum grey with streetline dark interior, colour coded bumpers, front fog lights, electric windows, alloy wheels, CD, only 40,955 miles. £3,495

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56	BMW 520 Diesel SE. In black, 69,000 miles, 1 owner, a/c, alloys, etc. £11,995
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05	HONDA Civic 2.0 Type R. In black, 53,000 miles with air con, drives superb £7,995
54	MERCEDES C230 Sport SE Auto. Black with black leather trim, 2 owners £5,995
08	MITSUBISHI Colt C2C2 Convertible. In met blue, fantastic value with full metal electric roof. £6,995
07	SEAT Ibiza 1.9 TDI FR 3-dr. In gun metal metallic, 51,000 miles, very lively diesel at. £6,995
04	JAGUAR S-Type 3.0 SE Auto. In sea frost silver with beige leather trim, 49,000 miles, 1 owner. £6,995
55	BMW 320 Diesel SE Touring. Steel blue, low mileage example at. £6,995
03	VW Beetle 2.0 convertible. In ice blue, 52,000 miles, stylish 4 seater £6,995
06	FORD Fiesta 2.0 ST. In silver, 39,000 miles with a/c, on offer at. <b>REDUCED BY £1000 TO £5,995</b>
05	VAUXHALL Tigra 1.4 Sport. In black with silver trim, 50,000 mile convertible at. £5,995
03	MERCEDES C220Di Avant Garde SE Auto in black, 78,000 miles, diesel economy at. £5,995
02	MERCEDES C230 Sport Auto. In silver with black leather trim, 69,000 miles, 1 owner, pan roof £5,995
06	TOYOTA Celica 1.8 VVTi. In met blue, 68,000 miles, 1 private owner . <b>REDUCED BY £1000 TO £4,995</b>
54	TOYOTA RAV4 2.0VVTi XT3. In silver, 89,000 miles, 2 owners with leather trim. £4,995
04	HONDA Civic 1.6 Sport 3-dr. In black, 50,000 miles, 2 owners £4,995
02	MERCEDES C180 Elegance Auto. In met-silver birch, 63,000 miles . <b>REDUCED BY £500 TO £4,995</b>
04	PEUGEOT 206 2.0cc. In ice blue, 33,000 miles with full leather trim, 2 owners, convertible at. £4,695
06	CHRYSLER PT Cruiser 2.4 Classic. In met grey, 41,000 mile American classic £3,995
04	FORD Street Ka in electric blue, 17,000 miles, 2 owner convertible at. £3,995
53	SUBARU Impreza 2.0 GX Sport AWD Automatic. In met blue, 45,000 miles, superb value £3,995
04	MGTF 1.6. In silver, 36,000 miles, nice example of this MG convertible £3,495

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07	FORD S-Max 2.0 TDCi Zetec. In silver, 61,000 miles, one owner, diesel 7 seater. £11,995
54	SEAT Alhambra 1.9 TDI Auto in silver beech met, 44,000 miles, 2 owners, 7-seater £8,495
07	TOYOTA Avensis 2.0 T Spirit. Leather, air con, etc, gunmetal grey met, low miles. £7,995
06	VW Beetle 2.0. In met blue, 49,000 miles with a/c etc £6,995
59	TOYOTA Aygo 1.0 Platinum 5-dr Auto. In silver, 10,000 miles, 1 owner £6,995
57	PEUGEOT 308 1.6 HDi Sport 5-dr in met red, 1 owner with a/c, cruise control, etc £6,995
07	FORD C-Max 2.0 Zetec Auto (New model). In met blue, low mileage example in excellent condition. £6,495
56	TOYOTA Avensis T3S 2.0-4D 5-dr. In sea mist silver, 73,000 mile diesel hatch at. £6,495
07	RENAULT Scenic 1.6 Dynamic Auto In met-burgundy, superb example with only 25,000 miles £5,995
06	TOYOTA Corolla 1.4 VVTi 5-dr in silver birch, 54,000 miles, 1 owner, a/c, alloys, etc £5,995
05	FORD Focus 2.0 TDCi Ghia 5-dr. In black, 70,000 miles. Top of the range diesel. £5,995
07	RENAULT Clio 1.4 Dynamique 3-dr. In met graphite, 21,000 miles with air con. £5,695
55	FORD Mondeo 2.0 TDCi Zetec 5-dr. In silver birch, 56,000 mile family hatch. £5,495
56	MITSUBISHI Lancer 1.6 Elegance Automatic. In met blue with black leather, 37,000 miles. £4,995
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55	VAUXHALL Astra 1.6 Life 5-dr Auto. In met red, 33,000 miles, fantastic value at. £3,995
04	FORD Fiesta 1.4 Silver 3-dr. 78,000 miles with full leather trim £3,995
55	PEUGEOT 206 1.1 Zest 3 5-dr. In black, 29,000 miles with a/c, cd etc £3,695
52	FORD Fiesta 1.6 Ghia 5-dr. In gun metal silver, 34,000 miles, 1 family from new £3,695
55	FORD Ka 1.3 Style. In silver, 41,600 miles, nice looking example at. £3,295
57	CHEVROLET Matiz 1.0 SE 5-dr. In red with cd, e/w, c/l and low insurance £2,995
54	RENAULT Megane 1.4 Authentique 5-dr. In met blue, 72,000 miles, 1 private owner with air con. £2,995
53	VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 SXi. Met green, a/c, elect windows, very attractive car £2,995
03	RENAULT Clio 1.2 Expression 3-dr. In black, low mileage, local car at. £2,995
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**blackhorse**

# THIS SATURDAY PROMISES TO BE QUITE THE DAY FOR HUNT-RACING ENTHUSIASTS

LOCAL hunt racing enthusiasts will be flocking to Uplands, Ystradwen, on Saturday, March 26, for the annual Glamorgan Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechases which sees the start of the season in the Vale.

Racing gets under way at 2pm with the members' race and during the afternoon, there will be a parade of hounds. The mixed open race will be run at 4.30pm and the last race on the card is the restricted race at 5.05pm.

Meanwhile, the most popular winner at the Currie and Llangibby Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechases was Gwynne Phillips's *Books*

*Review* (Open Maiden Division 3) who, well ridden by John Mathias, got up on the run to the winning post to overtake *Wilkinson*, partnered by Tom David, who had jumped the last in front.

*Books* Review, a seven-year-old bay gelding trained by former leading lady rider Shan Farr, of *Mandryka* fame, was bred by his owner, a retired steel worker well-known on the hunt racing circuit, and who was absolutely delighted.

The ladies' open race was won by Beth Roberts' *Chesnut Annie*, who was recording her 25th success.

*Chesnut Annie*, who like *Books Law* is qualified with the Ystrad Taf Ffchan Hunt, led from start to finish to win by 10 lengths from *Blue Business*.

Willie Twiston-Davies, 16-year-old son

of leading National Hunt trainer Nigel Twiston-Davies, took the men's open race winning by a comfortable three lengths from *Burntakboy*.

Meanwhile, Tom David, former conditional jockey to Aberthin's Tim Vaughan, has reverted back to being an amateur rider after finding it difficult to get many rides from trainers other than Vaughan.

Tom (20), who has ridden point-to-point winners for Princess Anne, said: "I was never going to be in the top 15-20 jockeys, so I thought it best to go back to being an amateur."

"I didn't want to go past the number of winners - 25 - that would have meant I couldn't go back."

Ffos Las Racecourse has proved a happy hunting ground for Llancairfan's Evan Williams, who saddled the racecourse's first ever winner.

At the recent last meeting his

*MickMacMagoole* came in at odds of 5-1, while on the same day at Newton Abbot earlier in the day his *Alla Svelta* won the opener.

Williams and Vaughan both had winners at Fontwell on Wednesday, Vaughan scored with *Piment D'estral* and

## ON AND OFF THE TURF with Brian Lee

Williams with *Gurtacruie*.

At Chepstow, Williams was successful with 16-1 outsider *Extreme Pact* who landed the handicap hurdle under T.J. O'Brien.

### MATHIAS'S UNIQUE SIX-TIMER

HUNT racing history

was made at the Tiviside Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechase at Cilwendig on Sunday when John Mathias, a 20-year-old farmer's son, who is the reigning

Welsh champion point-to-point rider, landed a unique six-timer.

Mathias won the first five races he rode in and then, after finishing fourth on the favourite *Cilrhriwron* in the first division of the confined maiden, won the next division of the race on *Banagher* a horse which also gave him his first win as a trainer.

Mathias's six winners were *Balearic Star* (Members), *Lydstep Hills* (Confined), *Pathian Prince* (Intermediate), *Rosies Peacock* (Men's Open), *Saint Petray* (Restricted) and *Banagher* (Maiden Division Two).

Racegoers stayed

behind after Mathias's sixth winner to congratulate him and some even asked him to autograph their racecards!

Local and national press photographers took pictures of him when he returned to the winners' enclosure after his sixth and final winner, and the atmosphere was electric.

In the long history of the sport, no other rider has ridden six winners between-the-flags on any one day - only a few have managed to achieve five-timers.

Only two of the 11 entries faced the starter for the AGA Ladies open race and this resulted in another win for Beth Roberts' *Chesnut Annie* who, ridden by regular rider Welsh champion Isabel Tompsett, finished alone after Keith Pritchard's *Chandlers Cross*, partnered by Jodie Hughes, pulled up three fences from the finish when a long way behind.

Ogmore's Nick Williams rode a well-judged race on Huw Goldsworthy's *Atmyntwend* to land the first division of the confined maiden race coming home by three lengths ahead of *Mini Palm* ridden by Bradley

Gibbs.

Jordan Williams, aged 12, riding *Tommy's Girl* the outsider of three in the 14.2hh pony race, made nearly all the running to beat the odds-on favourite *Springs*.

Jordan, a pupil of Rhymney

Comprehensive School, who likes looking after the sheep on his grandfather Bernard Llewellyn's Bargoed farm, has hopes of becoming a flat racing jockey.

The 13.2hh pony race was won by Lorcan Williams (aged 11), no relation to Jordan Williams, on his chestnut mare *Pennewy Tap Dance*, who also made all the running after being backed from 3-1 to off the boards.

### TIM'S RUN OF SECONDS

ABERTHIN'S Tim Vaughan made a bold bid to saddle his first Cheltenham Festival winner last week, but unfortunately he ended up in the place reserved for the runner-up on three occasions.

On the Wednesday, his *Beshabar* was given a cracking ride by Tom David in the four-mile Hunt Chase Challenge Cup but the 5-1 favourite *Chicago Grey*, who ironically had brought down *Beshabar* in a race at Cheltenham

in November, proved too speedy on the run-in and won by four and a half lengths.

Then, in the Wetherby's Champion Bumper (Standard NH Flat Race) - the final race on the card - Tim's 66-1 outsider *Destroyer Deployed* under Aidan Coleman finished runner-up to the Peter Hobbs-trained *Cheltenham* by five lengths.

The following day, Tim ran his *Nemo Spirit* in the St Patrick's Day Derby (charity race) and ridden by Roger Sargent, this six-year-old finished second to the Henry Cecil-trained *Hotpot Plato* partnered by Lorna Fowler.

To train a horse to finish in the first three at the Cheltenham Festival is an achievement in itself, so Tim should not be too disappointed that he didn't quite make the winner's enclosure on this occasion.

Meanwhile, Sam Waley-Cohen, who won the Gold Cup on *Long Run* (at six, the youngest horse in the race) is no stranger to hunt-racing enthusiasts in the Vale. In 2002, 2003 and 2004 he won the Welsh Point-To-Point 'Grand National' at Bonvilston on his father Robert's French-bred *Down*. No other horse has achieved this feat.

And did you know that *Holmwood Legend*, which won the Byrne Group Plate at Cheltenham on the Thursday, was a winner at the Countryside Alliance Point-To-Point meeting at Bonvilston in 2009?

### COWBRIDGE RIDER'S DOUBLE CENTURY!

James Tudor, assistant trainer to Llancairfan's Evan Williams and a former national point-to-point champion rider, chalked up his 200th winner-between-the-flags and under rules - when landing the men's open race on Alan Hill's *Start Royal* at the Bicester With Whaddon Chase at Whitfield on Sunday.

*Start Royal* beat Up There, owned by Rae Jones and qualified with the Pentry Hunt.

Evan Williams landed a 35-1 double at Ffos Las on Saturday with *Prince Massini* and *Cold Harbour*. The former was ridden by Paul Moloney and the latter by Aidan Conlan.

Kenfig Hill's Rhys Flint won the opener on 25-1 chance *Street Dance* for West Wales trainer Keith Goldsworthy.

## Netball teams looking sharp!

THANKS to sponsorship from international transport and logistics company, SDV Logistics (based in Llantrisant), Barry Netball Club's A and B teams will be competing in the Cardiff and District Netball League in striking new black/orange kits.

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# GEM sport

## Can Wales get up to speed before the autumn leaves fall?

So there you have it, another frustrating, up-and-down Six Nations campaign that in the case of Wales, began in cautious optimism at Cardiff, flickered into life in Edinburgh and Rome, and ended with barely a whimper in Paris.

Sandwiched in between the opening 26-19 loss to England and last Saturday's 28-9 defeat to France, were the three victories over Scotland (24-6), Italy (24-16), and Ireland (19-13), that had put Wales in with an outside chance of snatching the championship when England's Grand Slam dream was ruthlessly snuffed out in Dublin.

Indeed, when the Welsh players ran out at Parc des Princes on Saturday evening, they already knew that the Irish team they had narrowly overcome just a week before, had manfully regrouped to defeat Martin Johnson's tournament favourites far more comprehensively than the 24-8 final score suggested.

What greater incentive could there have been for Wales to follow Ireland's inspired example and come out with all guns blazing against a new-look French side drastically revamped following their coach's scathing criticism in the wake of losing for the first time ever to wooden spoonists Italy?

Now was the time to seize the moment and make a heroic attempt to close the yawning 27-point gap to the championship title – or at least round off the Six Nations on a tri-

### BACK PAGE COMMENT by Don John

umphant note in the last meaningful match before the Rugby World Cup in the autumn.

Instead, in the space of 80 minutes, Wales slumped from second place in the table, to their now seemingly entrenched fourth spot, as they failed to rise to the challenge against an unremarkable French team that had little more to do than snap up the easy opportunities handed to them on a plate by basic Welsh shortcomings.

Wales had in fact drawn first blood inside two minutes when outside half James Hook kicked the first of his three penalties which would represent his side's total score.

Morgan Parra repaid with two penalty kicks and man-of-the-match Lionel Nallet ended the first half with the first of his two gifted tries to make the score at the change-over 11-3.

When play resumed, Hook struck his third and final penalty, but any lingering hopes of a Welsh fightback vanished with Nallet's second try when he charged down Hook's attempted clearance, followed by a Parra penalty and a converted try while the unfortunate Hook was in the sin bin for a highly-debatable 'dangerous tackle'.

He was replaced by Stephen Jones and (again somewhat belatedly) scrum half Dwayne Peel came off the replacements bench to inject more urgency and pace into Welsh

efforts, but by then the battle and any lingering chance of the championship was lost.

One can only wonder if the outcome may have been different if he and Hook had had more time together to make an impact earlier in the match.

Afterwards, a clearly angry head coach Warren Gatland pointed a finger at his players, saying; "They just didn't turn up... The team was not in the right mental frame of mind."

Surely, though, if that was the case, the coaches should not be totally absolved of responsibility for the team's lack of preparedness?

One wonders if bizarre off the field problems in the Welsh camp had been a contributory factor? Defence coach Shaun Edwards had been omitted from the party travelling to Paris on disciplinary grounds, following an altercation with a backroom colleague.

This may well have been an unwelcome distraction for the players just when everyone in the back room should have been singing from the same song sheet before such a crucial game...

One can only hope that it was an isolated incident and not symptomatic of underlying problems in the Welsh camp during the run-in to yet another Rugby World Cup.

We've all been down that road before!

Be that as it may, the Welsh camp surely has some serious on-field thinking to do, with so little time left to the start of the World Cup in the autumn.

Not least is the underlying core approach to a style of play which at present puts the main emphasis on muscular defence and tight control, rather than a more fluid, instinctive game played at pace.

The need for a rock-solid platform is of course undeniable (particularly in this age of giants!) given well-chronicled past weaknesses, but it cannot be an end in itself.

Moreover, in the process Welsh individual flair is now at risk of becoming an endangered species – along with what I would call 'the art of the unexpected' in which so many great Welsh players of the past naturally excelled.

Sadly, the present approach (with rare exceptions, epitomised by the mercurial Shane Williams) rarely contains that subtle element of surprise – and potent speed of hand and foot which was once a distinguishing feature of Welsh play.

There is no question that the present-day squad of players are potentially every bit as talented as their forebears, but the sum is not always equal to the parts and frustrating inconsistency continues to be a major concern for the Welsh camp.

*They now have a handful of summer warm-up games in which to put this right before world rugby's most testing knockout competition gets under way Down Under.*

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## Last-minute breakaway try clinches win for Athletic

IT might have been Six Nations Super Saturday, but with Wales not kicking off in Paris until late evening, this was business as usual in the very competitive Division One West.

This week's visitors were the last team to inflict a league defeat on the Athletic; and that was back on October 30. Since then, the Athletic have racked up wins against Carmarthen Athletic, Corus, Maesteg, Narberth and UWIC, as well as a lacklustre draw at bottom club Felinfoel.

There was certainly no complacency in the Athletic's ranks as Llangennech's lowly

### BRIDGEND ATHLETIC LLANGENNECH

22  
21

league position is something of a mystery, as they are a team of big, strong, well-drilled forwards and a set of strong pacy backs with coach, former British Lions hooker Barry Williams, at the helm. In addition, the Athletic were without all-action captain Sean Williams, who was injured in the excellent bonus point win over UWIC on Tuesday night.

In perfect conditions, the game kicked off and early exchanges were fairly even before Llangennech launched a powerful assault into the home 22, with both forwards and backs fully involved. With the

Athletic stretched to breaking point, there was a knock-on in midfield to take away the immediate danger.

It wasn't long before it was the Athletic's turn to exert intense pressure on their opponents. Llangennech gave away a penalty less than 10m out from their own line and quick thinking by fly-half Steve Lewis saw him tap and dart over untouched for a try that he also converted.

Despite this score, Llangennech were soon back on top, putting the home scrum under pressure and attempting to disrupt their ball. The Athletic were able to nullify Llangennech's

attacks with some excellent defence, well led by centre Stuart Morris before launching another series of attacks when impressive No 8 Tom Penny-Ellis linked with livewire scrum-half Aled Thomas to release wings James Olds and Lloyd Pemberton on rampaging runs.

(CONTINUED  
ON PAGE 26)



Aled Thomas gets his kick away.  
PHOTOGRAPH BY ADRIAN BURT

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